MONTHLY REGISTER.

REVIEW

OF

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

MAY, 1803.

ENGLISH BOOKS.

The Progress of Maritime Discovery, from the earliest Period to the Close of the Eighteenth Century, forming an extensive system of Hydrography. By James Stanier Clarke, F. R. S. Vol. I .4to. 3l. 8s. boards. Cadell and Davies.

THIS author well deserves, what he will assuredly obtain, the patronage of a nation.—A work of more importance, which required more intense labour, or more general and scientific learning, has scarcely ever issued from the press. To trace the progress of maritime discovery from the darker ages to the present most enlightened period, and for this purpose, to be conversant with all those languages in which the voyages of different navigators have been written, to wade through such an immense mass of jarring and obscure accounts, to undertake to reduce all to order, to adjust to each his claims, as well to kingdoms as to individuals; in fine, to have done all this, was a labour from which most men would have shrunk, dismayed at once by the magnitude and novelty of the attempt. But happily, in minds of superior enlargement, there is an ardour of enterprise which rises above every obstacle.

A book of this nature has long been wanted. The maritime discoveries of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and following centuries, seem to have been shared by the Portuguese, Spaniards, Dutch, and English; and though their narratives have for the most part been written distinctly, yet each navigator has thought it necessary, in detailing his own particular discoveries, to go over again the ground which has been trodden by his predecessors; thus the reader has been disgusted by a tiresome repetition, and condemned, if but a petty island were discovered in the South sea, to gain his intelligence of it in a quarto account of Universal Navigation.

The voyages of our greatest navigators have, indeed, been reduced into something like order, and given in a connected series of progressive discovery; but these compilations, with few exceptions, have generally been made by men who considered learning as an instrument of gain, who contracted with booksellers to supply their own wants and those of the public. They have been, therefore, little studious of accuracy, and have devoted no time to the examination of jarring accounts, or comparison of different writers, but have taken each on his own word, and compiled and extracted from the first which came to hand. Hawkesworth, the most modern compiler of any estimation, if fame be just to his memory, thought of little more than fulfilling his engagement with his bookseller, and gave himself no trouble in examining the accuracy of the narratives which were put into his hands, but, having extracted that part which he thought most

amusing, made no question about its truth. There was another, and not the least fault in these compilations, which we have often had reason to lament: these collections of voyages seldom commenced at the proper period, and an account was rarely given of maritime discoveries before the time of Columbus; the earlier discoveries of the Euthites, Greeks, Phœnicians, Carthaginians, and Romans, being almost wholly neglected.

To have succeeded such compilers must be accounted a circumstance much in favour of Mr. Clarke's work, but there is yet another which will operate still more to secure it a warm and general reception: it has been undertaken with happy auspices, it has been encouraged by the smiles of patronage, and by the approbation of Lord Spencer. When works of great difficulty have been executed, the first enquiry is by what process they have been carried to perfection. On surveying a work of a bulk like this, which, at first sight, seems to have demanded an industry rarely found in a solitary individual, this question will naturally occur.—The author must answer for himself.---

'The reader may be curious to know, why the present work was undertaken, and with what authority an obscure individual like myself, has ventured to embark on so perilous a voyage. A general idea of the plan may have been formed from the prospectus already circulated. It informed the public that the outline was projected under the auspices, and with the approbation of Earl Spencer, who presided at the board of admiralty; but I did not then mention another patron by whom the arrangement of the whole was formed, that zealous mariner Admiral John Willett Payne. Under this eminent officer my attention was first directed to naval literature. His ardent mind pointed out whatever of novelty, or of utility, had hitherto been neglected; and whilst his genius cast new light upon the desiderata thus presented, his conversation cheered my fatigue, and his enthusiasm prolonged my industry.

'On my return from a cruise in the Impeteux my first efforts * were submitted to the press, and favourably received. When I contemplated the next object which offered, I trembled at its magnitude. Whilst I hesitated, the importunity of friendship increased, and at length prevailed. It repeatedly urged that a complete system of hydrography was wanted by the literary world, and particularly by naval men; that it would prove an essential service to future navigators to have the principal discoveries of their predecessors connected and arranged; that a perusal of the numerous works relative to the subject required rather the leisure of a recluse, than the agitated and interrupted day, which the mariner constantly experiences.

The author then recounts the names of those gentlemen who assisted him in his labours, and acknowledges himself signally indebted to Mr. Pollard, the learned friend of Sir William Jones, and to Mr. Arrowsmith for his numerous MSS. He then presents us with a list of those writers who preceded him, and adds, that the mass of information in all these books is more to be commended than blamed; but that, from reasons he pretends not to know, each collector has uniformly abused his predecessor, whereas none of their works were without their peculiar value and utility. He seems to yield the palm to the anonymous writer who succeeded Mr. John Green.

This gentleman we know published a new and general collection of voyages and travels in four thick quarto volumes, and, but for the impatience of the bookseller to terminate the work, would not so soon have brought it to a conclusion.

* Twenty-one Sermons on the Duties of Mariners, with the first, second, and third volumes of the Naval Chronicle.

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The seven first volumes of the Abbe Prevost's Histoire Generale dés Voyages were translated from this collection, under the patronage of the Chancellor of France, who deemed it worthy of attention before the completion of the first volume, in English. But the characteristic vanity of Prevost induced him to take many liberties in the translation, and to attempt supplanting the fame of the original work, which he did not even once mention in the title-page, so that few readers of the present day are aware that the original exists in their own language.

'In all these collections, (says the author) hydrography has been considered in a secondary, and frequently in a subordinate point of view. The great objects of this branch of science, so interesting to a great commercial nation, and so important to its navigators, are dispersed through an infinity of volumes, and often erroneously given. Authorities have been seldom cited; the claims of nations and individuals, to the merit of their respective discoveries, are too faintly traced; the remarks of the navigator and traveller, united in the same work, destroy that connection and arrangement each might separately possess; the dissertations and remarks of nautical men have multiplied, until some of the earliest, and most valuable, are nearly lost amidst the mass of information that exists; so that it appeared necessary at the close of the eighteenth century, to arrange and separate the stores which preceding ones had afforded; and thus to form a general system of hydrography, equally interesting to the navigator, the statesman, the merchant, and to readers in general.'

'Such, he proceeds, is the general outline of my plan, which, notwithstanding the number of volumes marshalled in dread array before me, I should imagine might be executed in about six, or at the utmost in seven thick quartos. The voyages of the present reign alone amount to about twice that number. I am anxious to form a work which shall produce a systematic reference to the contents of Hackluyt, Purchas, Thevenot, Churchill, Harris, and Astley, and thus render them more generally known, and by comparison with later productions, more correct. The first volume is now before the public, and I await its decision with respect. The second would give the Portuguese discoveries in India until the year 1546; it would then illustrate the enterprises of our own countrymen, who soon followed the same tract; might possibly mark the slow but extirpating progress of the Dutch, and give a general view of the islands in the Indian ocean, as discovered by different navigators. This completes the second great division; and the attention of the reader should then be directed to that branch of discovery which sprung from the school of Portugal, under the forced, and ungrateful patronage, of Spain.'

The author thus unfolds his extensive plan, which we have been obliged considerably to abridge. In his introduction he takes a review of the earliest periods of navigation, and then passes to the sacred periods, which are those when the Phœnicians exercised the commerce of the world. To this succeeds his review of the Grecian periods, in which he examines the geography of Marinus, Gossilini, Ptolemy, and traces the progress of the maritime colonies from Egypt. He then proceeds to an examination of the fabulous navigators of Greece, Perseus, Orpheus, Cadmus, &c. &c; the Argonautic voyage; voyage of Lataspes, maritime history of Cyclopes; Athenian commerce on the Euxine, naval character of the Greeks, and their knowledge of India; and the Macedonian discoveries. He concludes his account of this period with an abstract of Dr. Vincent's very learned and able voyage of Nearchus.

The fourth section begins with a review of the Carthaginian and Roman periods, in which the author makes a vigorous display of much abstruse learning. He details the voyages of Hanno and Himilco, and the voyage of

discoveries by the historian Polybius; he then gives an abstract of Dr. Vincent's Periplus, and concludes with a dissertation on the commerce of the Romans by the late Rev. William Clarke, his relation, residentiary of Chichester.

This rapid analysis of what may be called the introduction to the main work the reader must overlook; we are confined to limits, and other parts must be attended to.

The first book commences with illustrations of Commercial History preceding the fifteenth century. In this part of his work the author is too diffuse; it was, indeed, necessary to relate the principal events of this century which were connected with maritime affairs, but they should have been but slightly dwelt upon, and very few were essential to his design. But it is unjust not to add that every subject is clearly explained, nothing of any importance omitted, and the whole supported by the authority of other writers.

The second section contains Portuguese History preceding the fifteenth century. This nation so distinguished for its earliest maritime discoveries has employed much of the author's attention,—it will, perhaps, be said, *too much*, since many events are given of no very close connection with hydrography. Chap. II. is devoted to the voyages of the Portuguese. The history of the kingdom is traced from the time of Ferdinand, and the reign of John the first, 1385, to the death of Henry, duke of Visco in 1403, which interrupted the course of discoveries first begun under his direction to the coast of Africa. Section 2 of chap. II. traces the progresss of discovery from Cape Verga to Cape Catherine, and contains conjectures on the discovery of the islands in the Gulph of Guinea,—illustrations of a Portuguese pilot, as given by Ramusio, and the voyage of Pedro de Cintra, written by Cada Mosto. Then commences the reign of John the second; the author next proceeds, and relates the discovery of Congo in 1484, by Diego Cam, and the embassy to Edward the fourth of England to prevent his only son from making a voyage to the coast of Africa. He concludes this section with hydrographical remarks.

Having thus brought down the history of Portuguese discoveries nearly to the end of the fifteenth century, he begins his third chapter with a brief survey of Indian history.

He gives a connective retrospect of this history from the time of the Macedonian discoveries by Alexander and Nearchus to the close of the fifteenth century; he then passes to the Mohammedan invasions, Furkestan invasions, Mogul Dynasty, Babar, History of the coast of Malabar, and finishes with conjectures respecting the fleur de lis on the mariner's compass. In the next section begins the reign of Emanuel, in which Da Gama doubled the Cape of Good Hope, and arrived off the coast of Malabar, on the twentieth of May, 1498. With this the first book concludes, and the earlier course of discoveries by the Portuguese.

The volume is wound up with an appendix, containing 263 pages of very close print, which is greatly disproportionate, when the other parts of the work are considered, but contains many scientific and interesting discussions.

Having given this short outline of the work, we shall close with a strenuous recommendation of it to public notice. Indeed, if we mistake not the temper of the nation, the labours of Mr. Clarke will be rewarded with its accustomed liberality, and his emolument and his fame at the same time secured. He will be animated by public patronage to persevere in his undertaking, which, when his merit shall be known, as this volume will doubtless make it, will be made easier and lighter to him by the contributions he will receive from the learned, to advance his work to a much higher degree

degree of perfection. It is no small satisfaction to ourselves that we are enabled thus early to praise; the notes we raise will, perhaps, be undistinguished in the general chorus of applause which will soon follow; but, they are likely to be soon repeated, if the author keeps his promise with the public. We only desire him to proceed in confidence of that success which learning, genius, and perseverance must, sooner or later, command.

This volume contains as much as three modern quartos; it is accompanied by a book of maps extremely well executed.

The Temple of Nature; or, the Origin of Society: a Poem. With Philosophical Notes. By Erasmus Darwin, M. D. F. R. S. 4to. 124 pp. 1l. 5s. Johnson, 1803.

IF invention be the prime quality of a poet, Dr. Darwin may rank high in the list both of the antients and moderns. Few writers have exhibited so great a variety of matter which may, in the strictest sense, be called original, and still fewer have disdained to copy from other models with a more pertinacious obstinacy. Whether we consider him as the author of the Botanic Garden, Zoonomia, or Phytologia, we shall always find him drinking at a spring untasted by any lips but his own, expatiating upon ideas which no mind but his own could conceive, and giving birth to theories which were beyond the ingenuity of any other man even remotely to imagine.

This unconquerable rage of novelty, as it is considered by some the great excellence of Dr. Darwin, is, in our own opinion, his most glaring defect; it has led him to adopt systems which are too repugnant to common sense to need confutation, and which, however praised, and even praiseworthy for the ingenuity, yet when regarded in any other light than freaks of imagination, are well deserving the ridicule they have incurred.

We will here instance his 'Loves of the Plants.' It is true, indeed, that the great founder of botany, Linnæus, had entertained some notions of the sexual system, the origin of which it has been attempted to palm upon Claudian, who little imagined to what he had committed himself by a few lines, which are certainly meant in a metaphorical sense—

"Vivunt in venerem frondes, nemus omne per altum,
"Felix abhor amat, nutant ad mutua palmæ
"Fœdera, populeo suspirat populus ictu,
"Et platani, platanis, alnoque assibelat alnus."

These verses seem to have been the groundwork of Dr. Darwin's poem. It is not here meant to be asserted that there is no such thing as the sexual system with respect to plants, but it is intended to point out the folly of having enlarged beyond all bounds what was at best but an ingenious theory, till it touched upon the grossest absurdity—who, but Dr. Darwin, would have transferred to plants the whole œconomy of love—who would have made a lilly blush, or a pink mourn, or related the intrigues of a kitchen-garden? In the poem of his Loves of the Plants the folly of injudicious metaphor was never before so glaring—but, peace to its manes; the poet has conjured up another sprite which it will be more difficult to lay.

In the work before us the Dr. seems to have surpassed the efforts of his better days, to have outdone his usual outdoings, and, as he grew older, to have improved in those powers which age is generally thought to impair. That vigor of invention which gave birth to his earlier productions—that boldness of theory which urged him to form systems—and, that ingenuity which enabled him to support them, do not seem to have failed him in this last effort of his muse. Hardened in error by ridicule, and wading deeper into absurdity from opposition, the poet has grown desperate in his last attempts; and, already chin-deep in the mud, he resolves, for the sport of the spectator, to plunge over head and ears, and see what he can find more curious

curious than he has already exhibited;—he rises with the '*Reproduction of Animal Life.*'

The philosophical title of this book naturally excites curiosity to know on what principles it proceeds, and what it pretends to determine; but, in theories of this nature, there is a danger of being bewildered in a maze of chimerical notions, more particularly if novelty of system be attempted. Abstract reasoning, deep research, and curious investigation, must necessarily advance us in every other science; but, in that higher part of natural history which relates to first causes, the formation of matter, the production of life, and the secrets of creation, we wander in an unnavigable ocean, without chart or compass, unable to direct our course without the only true polar star, the Scripture itself.

If the 'Reproduction of Animal Life' be allowed, whither will it not lead? The audacity of the sceptic will be swelled to intolerable insolence, and weak minds will be overturned by arguments which, though abhorrent from common sense, may yet be supported by an ingenious plausibility. We here beg leave to be understood as casting no reflection upon the memory of Dr. Darwin, whom we are bound to consider, and it would cost us some pain *not* to consider well affected to the system of Christianity. But many of the principles in this poem are certain deistical, if they do not strongly participate of materialism.

Ever since the time of Buffon, the most rational theorist which natural history can boast, few who have gone deeply into this study but have been infected with the itch of system-making: theories have begot theories, and one has swept away the other—for, as it is the practice of these theorists always to build *anew*, none could profit by the labour of his predecessors. Buffon was a singular instance of superior genius directed to a study which had not hitherto employed it; his simple eloquence, his sound judgment, and, what is more essential, his indefatigable labour in experiments, advanced him to the head of his class; but the theories of Buffon were rational when compared with those of his followers, and theirs were no less so when compared with Darwin's. Experiment, indeed, is the only footstool by which we can reach the secrets of nature; and, when this is rejected, dark and doubtful speculations must ensue, which, though ingenuity be enabled to reduce them to some order, will always retain too much of their original obscurity to defeat every serviceable end. But, there is here another question—May not these speculations be amusing? Pleasure, indeed, may be derived from an ingenious theory, and pleasure, in fact, such as results from the manner in which it is supported, is the only thing a wise man expects from it; but the writer is supposed to be convinced of the reasonableness of his own arguments, and they may fall in with weak and congenial mind, which will be convinced by them likewise.

The intent of this poem is discovered in the preface.—'The poem which 'is here offered to the public,' says the author, 'does not pretend to instruct 'by deep researches of reasoning; its aim is simply to amuse, by bringing 'distinctly to the imagination the beautiful and sublime images of the ope-'rations of nature in the order, as the author believes, the progressive course 'of time presented them.

'In the Eleusinian mysteries the philosophy of the works of nature, with 'the origin and progress of society, are believed to have been taught by 'allegoric scenery, explained by the Hierophant to the initiated, which 'gave rise to the machinery of the following poem.'—

It is divided into four cantos. The first is of the 'Production of Life.' In this canto, whether in jest or earnest, whether to amuse or instruct, we know not, the author supports some strange theories. The pious reader will

will here be rejoiced, that God is acknowledged to be the first cause—but then, 'life began beneath the sea.'

'Organic life beneath the shoreless waves
'Was born, and nurs'd in ocean's pearly caves'—

The second canto is upon the 'Reproduction of Life; and, in page 154, is the following note, which is worth extracting, in order to give some idea of the curious theory of the doctor;—

'It has been supposed by some,' says he, 'that mankind were formerly 'quadrupeds as well as hermaphrodites; and, that some parts of the body 'are not yet so convenient to an erect attitude as to a horizontal one; as 'the fundus of the bladder in an erect posture is not exactly over the inser-'tion of the urethra; whence it is seldom completely evacuated, and thus 'renders mankind more subject to the stone than if he had preserved his 'horizontality: these philosophers, with Buffon and Helvetius, seem to ima-'gine, that mankind arose from one family of monkeys on the banks of the 'Mediterranean, who accidentally had learned to use the adductor pollecis, 'or that strong muscle which constitutes the ball of the thumb, and draws 'the point of it to meet the points of the finger, which common monkeys 'do not; and that this muscle gradually increased in size, strength, and 'activity, in successive generations; and by this improved use of the sense 'of touch, that monkeys gradually acquired clear ideas, and became men.'

The doctor states this with all the gravity of conviction; but it is impossible to enter into a serious examination of such absurdities: we shall only observe, that this system is worse than Monboddo's; the latter only maintains, that men, like monkeys, had tales; the former asserts, that we were originally monkeys altogether. Paradox, when so gross, ceases to be entertaining;—we will now give a specimen of the doctor's poetry, as it explains the reproduction of life in plants and flowers:—

'Hence on green leaves the sexual pleasures dwell,
'And loves and beauties crowd the blossom's bell;
'The wakeful anther in his silken bed
'O'er the pleas'd stigma bows his waxen head;
'With meeting lips, and mingling smiles they sup
'Ambrosial dew-drops from the nectar'd cup;
'Or, buoy'd in air, the plumy lover springs,
'And seeks his panting bride on Hymen's wings.
'The stamen males, with appetencies just,
'Produce a formative prolific dust;
'With apt propensities, the styles recluse
'Secrete a formative prolific juice;
'There in the pericarp ere while arrive
'Rush to each other, and embrace alive.'

The poet then proceeds to talk of *vegetable blood*. Ariosto, it seems then, is no longer to be censured for his bleeding wood: the imagination of the bard was not rioting in the wildness of fiction, but, in fact, only discovered one of the truths of natural philosophy.

It is observed, by Bacon, that if a man chooses to give himself up to the phantasies of imagination, the slightest degree of ingenuity will enable him to form a theory which, though it may not convince, may at least confound. It is true, that there are many things in science above the reach of human reason, but nothing can be strictly called science which is not reducible to common apprehension. Theories of this nature, therefore, are with propriety attacked by ridicule, and common sense is best qualified to pass a judgment upon them.

The third canto is upon the 'Progress of the Mind;' and, here we must observe the injudicious use of the poetical licence of personification which

Dr.

Dr. Darwin applies to every thing: We have, for instance, *young sensation, quick volition, suggestion, association, young surprise, the virgin novelty*, and many other ideas of the mind personified, to the great disgust of the reader.

The fourth, and last canto, which treats of 'Good and Evil,' contains few of those strange doctrines which disgust us in the first and second. It embodies, for the most part, the different systems of natural philosophers into one system more connected and rational. Against this we have little to object. The whole concludes with what is called 'Additional Notes on many philosophical subjects. It may be necessary to give a general idea of the contents.—Note I. Spontaneous Vitality of Microscopic Animals.—II. Faculty of the Sensorium.—III. Volcanoes. In Note XII. is presented the Theory of Electricity and Magnetism; in Note XIII. an Analysis of Taste—XIV. Theory and Structure of Language—XV. Analysis of Articulate Sounds. This is the most useful part of the work; and, as it is not much connected with the poem, might as well have been printed separately.

The versification has the characteristic fault of Dr. Darwin, a want of simplicity. It is loaded with epithets, ornaments, and injudicious metaphors, which obscure even the little meaning it occasionally conveys. The poetry, however, is sufficiently sweet and melodious, and will, by some readers, be thought too much so; his lines are generally unbroken, cloying with unvaried harmony, and a uniform compass of the same music.

It is the fault of many of the poets of the day that their verse is of a prosaic structure, and, since the time of Pope, who improving upon Dryden, added to more harmony an almost equal vigour, the age is not satisfied with mere sweetness, or mere strength, but, having seen the possibility of their union in former writers, expects it in those who succeed them. The occasional strength of a Cowper or Hayley will not compensate the want of melodious versification; and the harmony of Darwin will not atone for the defect of vigorous thought and expression.

We have no more to observe upon this work but that it is beautifully printed, and decorated with many well executed plates, of which we confess ourselves at a loss to understand the meaning.

The Works of Thomas Chatterton, containing his Life by G. Gregory, D. D. And Miscellaneous Poems, 3 vol. 8vo. 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* Longman and Rees, 1803.

IT has been for some years past the laudable spirit of the Booksellers, or perhaps more properly of the age, to republish the works of those who may be called the classic authors of the country. It is to this that we owe the present complete collection of the works of Chatterton. Before we enter upon any further remarks upon the work, it is but justice to the Editors to acknowledge, that they appear to have spared no efforts to render it more full and perfect than any which have been yet published.

Of the contents of this work a most considerable part has never hitherto been produced to the public. The Editors, as they acknowledge, have received many original communications from Mr. G. Catcott. The extract from Kew Gardens was received from Dr. Halifax; and Mr. Hill, Mr. King, Mr. Gardner, and others, have supplied many of the poems, which, if they may be thought of little merit in themselves, must yet excite some interest, as even the hasty fruits of the genius of Chatterton. The Rowley poems are printed in the second volume, as the indubitable works of Chatterton. The life prefixed to the first volume is the well known production of Dr. Gregory, and is written in his characteristic style of simplicity,—and here we cannot but remark that Dr. Gregory is almost the

only biographer of the day who has not disfigured his style by a ridiculous imitation of that of Johnson.

It was the just censure of Seneca, that though a writer himself, of true Roman spirit, and stoic elevation, he gave birth to a tribe of Imitators, who borrowing nothing of him but his defects, corrupted the language, and finally closed the æra of Roman purity. The same censure may perhaps apply to Johnson,--his formed sentences, his measured cadence, and his latinity of syntax, have done more to spoil the simplicity of our language in the hands of his imitators, than they added to its vigour even whilst in his own.

The latter pages of this life are taken up with the agitation of the question upon the authenticity of the poems of Rowley. It has ever been our opinion that this discussion was sufficiently determined upon their first production to the public. It is well known that Chatterton inclosed one or two of these pretended originals to the late Earl of Orford, and that Earl immediately transmitted them to Mr. Mason, and Mr. Gray, the opinion of each of whom must be considered as equally decisive, upon the subject of antiquity and poetry. Mr. Mason and Mr. Gray concurred in pronouncing them forgeries. For our own parts we were ever inclined to think that the opinions of such men as Gray, Mason, and the Earl of Orford, from the common rule of logic, *Sua cuique in arte credendum est*, put it beyond any further doubt. But it must not be denied that the opposite side is wholly without evidence, and that the present work by a full and consolidated production of the arguments upon both sides, has not brought the subject into a juster view. Upon the perusal of these volumes all doubt must be at an end, and the most sceptical must concur in the now established opinion of all the learned of the day, that Rowley had no existence as a Poet but in the imagination of Chatterton.

The forgery was doubtless the effort of extraordinary powers. It has often been enquired whether the abilities of Chatterton were equal to this forgery. The second volume of this work presents us with a full answer to this question. Mr. Burgum was an honest Pewterer, of Bristol. Chatterton had borrowed some money of him, and being unable to pay him in the common currency of the kingdom, he resolved to pay him in what the vanity of the worthy Pewterer rendered, between themselves at least, equally current. Mr. Burgum was one of those who had hitherto believed that he was born of a father and mother, and, according to the common course of nature, and pewterers, from a father and mother of his own condition; Chatterton was kind enough to convince him of his error by the production of a long pedigree roll of the family of the De Bergham, or Burghams. It appears from this pedigree, which is given at full length in this volume, that the worthy pewterer, Mr. Burgum, alias, De Bergham, was a lineal descendant of Simon de Leynote Lyse, alias Senliz, who married Matilda, daughter of Walmeof, earl of Northumberland, Northampton, and Huntingdon. The honest pewterer stares; but Chatterton produces the pedigree, and Mr. Dr. Bergham, like Cincinatus, is compelled to suffer himself to be invested in his new honours.

Can it be doubted, that he who could thus forge pedigrees, and authenticate them by all the pomp of marginal references, was equal to such a forgery as that of the poems of Rowley? As the evidence in both cases is exactly of the same weight, if the poems are Rowley's, Mr. Burgum is doubtless a descendant of the earl of Northampton, Northumberland, and Huntingdon.

Chatterton's pedigree of his own family is another of the original pieces in this work. The poet has here proved himself to be descended from duke Rollo, the Dane, and the dukes of Normandy. He expresses a grave surprise how the earldom of Winchester escaped out of his family.—He does

not explain how this branch of the dukes of Normandy became the sextons of Ratcliffe church for nearly two centuries. It must be confessed, however, that this latter remark is no great objection to the authenticity of his pedigree; it is a well known custom of the German empire that all the offices of the imperial household are hereditary, and the same rule may perhaps have had place in Radcliffe church with regard to its sextons. In its first institution it might have been a place of more honour than at present, and thus perhaps, not unworthy of the earls of Winchester, and Sir Radcliff de Chatterton, the great-grandfather of our poet.

With regard to such of the poems in this work which have appeared before, it cannot be expected that we should enter into any critical examination. Whatever may be their general merit, or particular defect, they have been long enough before the public to be rated according to their real worth. The general opinion upon this head appears to be, that with the exception of the poems imputed to Rowley, there is nothing in the productions of Chatterton which exceeds the common standard. The language is in some places scarcely grammar, and every page exhibits proofs of low company.

Many of the poems which are now published for the first time, are of an ethical nature, but the ethics are such as might be expected from the equal ignorance, and pride of mind, of Chatterton. Chatterton appears resolved to think for himself, which in other words, is to deviate from the general track, and thus be either superior or inferior to others. But such are the narrow materials, the confined advantages of education, and the humble condition of the poet, that his free thinking will rather excite a smile, than any thing of indignation. He substitutes sentiment for argument, and mistakes his own wild impulses for laws of nature. He cannot see his "black-eyed Biddy" without feeling some of those impulses, and sensibilities, which are common to our nature,—he demands why religion forbids the indulgence, to which nature impels? Being unable to answer this question, he passes into a coarse raillery of religion, as being opposed to nature. We should ourselves be equally ridiculous, if we thought it necessary to enter into a contest with such philosophy. Were the unfortunate poet, indeed, now living, we should have thought it our duty perhaps to have taught him the difference between an affection and a passion; to have instructed him that the former was indeed a law of our nature, and given us for purposes equally necessary and evident, but that the latter was only the excess of the former, and being thus equally pernicious to the primary affection itself, and to the order of society in its effects, required every restraint which laws and religion could oppose. We should not notice infidelity thus shallow, but that the book may fall into the hands of readers as shallow as Chatterton himself.

The essays in the third volume have little to recommend them. Such of them as are humorous are peculiarly marked to be Chatterton's by a venom of satire, and a style equally coarse and vigorous. Such of them as are political contain such politics as might be expected from the author, a spirit indignant at that order of society, which had allotted him only the rank in which it had been his fortune to be born. The pride of genius can but ill settle itself to the condition of humble life; the present day may furnish too many examples of this fatal truth, that talents in humble life are rather effectual to the misery, than to the happiness, of their possessor. Impatient of their humble sphere they spare no efforts to elevate themselves to one more suited to their genius; but, as they have to struggle against the forms of society, and the order of life, their efforts seldom terminate but in disappointment, and a consequent disgust with a world which appears "not made for them."—Such is the moral of the life of Chatterton, and such is the spirit which every where pervades his writings.

Few

Few of the new poems can be mentioned with any praise. They were written for magazines, and periodical works, and are deformed with evident marks of haste, and necessity. It is difficult to assign the cause, but the genius which Chatterton exhibits in the poems of Rowley disappears when he assumes the style of his own age, and times. His powers, from whatever derived, seem to be confined within a certain circle, and according to the aphorism of the ancient magicians 'magus non est magus suum 'extra circulum.' It is thus with Chatterton, in his sphere of literary forgery his powers of genius are indeed magical, but he no sooner steps beyond his circle, and lays aside the vest of Rowley, than he sinks to the common level.

Rural Philosophy, or Reflections on Knowledge, Virtue, and Happiness; chiefly in reference to a Life of Retirement in the Country. By Ely Bates, Esq. 8vo. 7s. boards. Longman and Rees.

THE writers on metaphysics are no longer in favour with the public. The appetite for reading is become so general, that few works, but such as are upon common topics, have the advantage of a general perusal. The disquisitions of metaphysic science have long been displaced by those of greater importance: the learned rubbish has been at length removed, and the ground cleared for the structure of those principles, the foundations of which have been laid in clearer reasoning, and truths of easier comprehension. A metaphysician, indeed, has long been considered a mere *lusus scientiæ*, from whom we expect rather amusement than instruction; he is esteemed according to the ingenuity with which he supports his favourite hypothesis, but never consulted with the view of affording us any certain principles of argument, or useful maxims of conduct.

These observations, though they do not wholly apply to the author of the present work, are yet occasioned by him: Mr. Bates is a metaphysical theologist, and, as such, belongs to a class which we highly respect. We need not therefore dwell upon the tenderness with which we are disposed to treat his present production.

The strain of rational piety in which this work is written, makes us approach to the task of criticism with a kind of reverential awe. The author confesses that the work of Zimmerman gave birth to his, and that his first design was to have taken a summary view of that celebrated book; but on a nearer inspection he found it so little capable of logical analysis, that he rather chose to pursue the train of his own reflections.

An original work was undoubtedly better; for as the author seems to dispute the general reasoning of Zimmerman, a commentary, or notes upon his book, must have been meant to confute him; and it is a kind of established maxim in literature not to turn commentator upon a writer with whom we essentially disagree;—by producing an original work, the author has avoided an absurdity.

In his preface he objects to Zimmerman on the ground that he is a superficial reasoner, and a wild and romantic enthusiast in his notions of virtue. It is indeed to be lamented that a work of that nature was not more in the spirit of true christianity, but it would be unfair to charge Zimmerman with disaffection to religion, because he regards the writings of Voltaire and Rousseau '*as devoted to the instruction and happiness of mankind.*' Voltaire is indefensible, but, unquestionably in the writings of Rousseau may be found many beautiful specimens of morality, and there is no proof that Zimmerman supports the infidelity of either. We are told, however, that the principles of the following work are laid in reason and revelation, in the knowledge of God and ourselves;—we therefore commence our examination,

and look forward to a progress through it with a prospect of considerable pleasure.

This work is divided into four parts, each containing three sections. The first, second, and third parts are occupied by 'reflections on knowledge, virtue, and happiness;' in the fourth, the author discusses a common objection against a life of retirement,---that it destroys or diminishes usefulness.

In his first section 'on the knowledge of God,' he discusses no difficult question, and is, therefore, generally right. He insists upon the insufficiency of all human knowledge without the light of revelations, and in his arguments on prayer, and the justice, and benignity of God towards man, he says little that the reader has not met with in others. We do not mean to censure this writer because he wants originality, since in treating a subject upon which so many have written, novelty is almost impossible; but a clearer display of arguments, a better arrangement of matter, and a more forcible method of conveying truth, are claims which sufficiently compensate the want of originality: but to merits of this kind Mr. Bates has no pretensions and since he has only thought like others, without expressing himself better, we cannot quote from *him*, when we can refer to *them*. In this section on the '*knowledge of ourselves*,' he demonstrates how imperfect were the moral systems even of the most enlightened philosophers.—'A tolerable 'system of ethics,' he says, 'might perhaps be drawn from heathen philoso-'phers and moralists, if taken collectively; for it does not appear that such 'a system could be extracted from any single individual.' We are pleased to see Mr. Bates on this ground which has long been stoutly defended by the champions of the new philosophy. The practice of some of the wisest and best of the ancients has been opposed to the doctrines of christianity, and from their example it has been contended, that as much has been derived from the light of nature as from revelation itself. This is the favourite argument of the modern unbeliever, who runs through his catalogue of ancient worthies, and cites the names of Scipio, Cato, Plato, and Socrates, to establish his darling position.

The church of Rome, in the height of its superstition, was accustomed to call the best of heretics by the name of '*splendid sinners*;' a writer of our own times has denominated the best of the ancients '*splendid criminals*.'—There is something of asperity in this observation, but there is a great deal of truth: let us see what Mr. Bates says upon this subject.—

'Plato himself failed greatly in several important points of practical mo-'rality; he prescribed a community of wives in his scheme of a perfect 'common-wealth, and in other respects gave much scope to the sensual 'passions; he allowed parents, in some cases, to destroy or expose their 'children; and, what is more directly to our present purpose, though he 'endeavoured to persuade his countrymen to be disposed towards one ano-'ther as brethren of the same family, and as friends by nature, he used a 'different language when speaking of the *barbarians* (that is, in the Grecian 'style of politeness, of all other nations), whom he held to be natural ene-'mies, and the just objects of an implacable hostility.

'To such defective views it must be ascribed, that a Roman historian says 'of Scipio Æmilianus, the cruel conqueror of the brave city of Numantia, 'that, in the whole course of his life, he neither did, nor said, nor thought 'any thing but what was laudable; and, that elsewhere he represents the 'second Cato as the very image of virtue, and, in the whole character of 'his mind, as approaching nearer to the gods than to men;* though we are 'informed by Plutarch, that this god-like Cato spent whole nights in drun-'ken debauch, lent out his wife to the orator Hortensius, and, at last, laid 'violent hands upon himself.'

* Paterculus, lib. 2.

The author having pursued his arguments to a considerable length in proof of what can never be doubted, that a proper knowledge of ourselves can only be grounded upon religion, closes his section with some arguments in support of his favourite doctrine, the expedience of retirement for the purpose of self-knowledge. But he points out, at the same time, the dangers of a too rigid seclusion, and observes, that solitude may be chosen from purposes contrary to benevolence, and that many who review their conduct in private may measure it by false estimation; and, inflated by a pride which has grown up from the want of comparison with other standards, may take credit to themselves as possessing excellencies which, in fact, only shine in the dark.

'As retirement' says he, 'may conceal from its votaries their defects, it 'it may also, in some cases, conceal from them their abilities and virtues 'which, for want of occasions to excite them, may lay inactive and dor-'mant. Cromwell, who seems in a former part of his life to have turned 'recluse, was 40 years old before he handled a pike, and yet suddenly com-'menced a great general; he sat for some time undistinguished in par-'liament, and it was only upon the occasions which afterwards arose that 'his extraordinary genius broke, probably, no less to the surprise of him-'self than of others. Ximenes was old when he was called from his cell, 'in which he had passed many years in all the rigours of monastic discipline, 'to act his part at court, where he displayed those talents and virtues, in 'the government of a great kingdom, which must be admired by the latest 'posterity, and which, without such an occasion, might have lain buried in 'the cloister.'

His next section is 'On the Knowledge of the World.' In this he makes the following distinction between what is solid and what is superficial:—

'The true knowledge of the world,' he says, 'does not consist chiefly 'in the knowledge of its manners, its occupations, or its amusements, or 'of the interior views and principles by which it is governed—for the for-'mer of these is merely superficial, and the latter is no more than philoso-'cal; but it consists in that knowledge which may be called moral and 'religious, or that teaches us to set a due rate on every thing around us; by 'which is not meant its price in the market, but its real use to the pos-'sessor.'

This observation must be confessed not to be very deep. The knowledge of the world, to which the author alludes as necessary to qualify us for retirement, can in no sense be called a moral and religious knowledge, since this knowledge can equally be acquired in retirement itself. That acquaintance with the world which ought to be preparatory to retirement, is a very distinct thing: it consists of an experience in the depravity of mankind, a struggle with temptation, and a final conviction that solitude is necessary to virtue, because a true fervor of devotion, a rigid self-examination, and thoughts fixed upon objects of divine nature, are incompatible with the offices of active life. Retirement is a duty limited to a few. Solitude is oftentimes unfavourable to virtue, and it never ought to be chosen by those who have not laboured at the oar, or born their part in the common duties of society. The author here closes his first division. In part the second he begins 'His Reflections on Virtue,' and considers how far retirement is favourable to virtue, from its tendency to weaken the impressions of the world. He here discusses questions which he determines, for the most part, like others who have written upon the same subject. Our limits will only afford a brief analysis. Having considered those means which tend, by a more direct and positive influence, to the promotion of virtue, he dwells upon those evils to which a life of retirement is exposed, and proposes their remedies.

Part

Part the third commences with 'Reflections on Happiness.' It is in this discussion that the author acquires the name of a rural philosopher, since all his reasoning manifestly tends to one point, and happiness, such as he allows it to be, is confined to a country life. These are maxims to which we are likely to consent—for, as it is the common prejudice of mankind to place happiness in any condition but their own, we, whose necessities have confined us to a life in cities, 'amidst the busy hum of men,' can easily inflame our imaginations with the visions of nodding groves, and purling brooks, and pant, with no fictitious ardours, for the retreats of the country. But, alas! we are old enough to know, that this boasted happiness is no more the inhabitant of a shady grove, than of our own study; but we shall not controvert this point with the author; we readily grant him that '*independence* is a portion of happiness,' but independence is no more confined to the country than to town. We have not so far surrendered our reason to the dreams of the poets, as not to know, that there is such a thing as distraining for rent, and such a being as a tax-gatherer; and, we have it upon undoubted information, that this monster, 'hateful to Gods and men,'

"Æquo pede pulsat
"Pauperum tabernas, regumque turres."

The author next expatiates upon agricultural pursuits, the diversions and scenery of a country life, and then passes to the consideration of a literary retirement.

We might here, perhaps, be allowed a little raillery, but we are resolved not to violate the philosophic dignity of his work by unseasonable ridicule. Part the fourth contains remarks on the utility arising from public station, and considerations upon a retired life, in respect to utility. He then discusses the evils and benefits arising from monastic institutions, and concludes with a review of the principles he has advanced, in relation to their use in guiding us in the *choice of life*.

Such are the contents of this volume. The general character of the author may be gathered from what we have already said, but, having given this brief outline of the work, it yet remains for us to offer some observations on its style and manner. For a man of so much learning, Mr. Bates is frequently guilty of an unreasonable display of it; we allude to his rage for quotations, which are seldom illustrative of his subject. His style is in general free from grammatical inaccuracies, but has no claim to elegance; it has, however, the peculiar merit of being simple and unembarrassed by a load of words and epithets. But if his sentences be not weakened by too many words, they are, nevertheless, frequently disfigured by such as have no claim to be there. The word 'displiciency' has not been regularly admitted into our language. But if sometimes he coins a word to which we have no right, at other times he presents us with one which we shall gratefully adopt. For instance, literato, the singular number of literati, is no bad coinage. But our remarks have reached their limits, and with all his faults, and excellencies, Mr. Bates must be dismissed. We leave him, however, in possession of a consolation, of which no vicissitudes can deprive him. In times full of scepticism and innovation, he has lent his assistance to the support of religion and morality. This reflection will cheer him at a time when the praise or censure of a critic will be '*empty dross*.'

Poems Lyrical and Miscellaneous. By the late Rev. Henry Moore, of Liskeard. 4to. 10s. 6d. boards. Johnson, 1803.

THE author of these poems appears to have been a man of singular endowments, but condemned by severity of circumstances to a life of obscurity and neglect. He was possessed of genius and learning which would have

have done honour to any station, but all vigour of enterprise was damped by a melancholy tone of mind which confined him to a rigorous retirement.

He seems to have been a man of long-suffering, and to have sought his consolation in the bosom of religion; the pious reader will learn, with pleasure, that this support did not fail him; indeed all his poems are marked by that resignation which flows from a divine source, and in perusing them we shall feel 'that though he suffered much, he was nobly supported.'

This, however, is not the first introduction of Mr. Moore in the world of letters; he was the author of Critical Notes on many Passages of the Old Testament, &c. &c. Of these pieces it is enough to say that they received the approbation of Dr. Geddes.

His best poem, entitled 'Private Life,' a moral rhapsody issued from a country press in 1795, and, of course, did not struggle into notice. Dr. Aikin, the editor of these poems, relates the manner in which they came into his hands. He was applied to in order to judge of their fitness for the public eye, and, without hesitation, gave a decided opinion in their favour: the public will, doubtless, confirm it. It is necessary to observe that the author died at a very advanced age, at the end of the year 1802. His editor thus concludes a short account of his life...'As he lived in celibacy, and had no 'dependent relatives, no other object remained for a subscription than that of 'bringing forward his posthumous work in an advantageous manner, secure 'both from loss and neglect. It is now committed to a liberal and discerning 'public, in the confidence that the author will obtain no mean place among 'those who have contributed to elevate the minds, purify the morals, and 'gratify the noblest tastes of their countrymen.'

There is a striking similarity between the lot of this gentleman and that of the humble and obscure Penrose; both of the same unrepining mind contentedly devoted themselves to obscurity; both found a solace in their muse which compensated every disadvantage of condition.

As the predominant disposition of an author's mind will always be found in his works, a moral and religious strain will be expected to characterise those of Mr. Moore. His productions are in the style of the '*Ode*,' a department of poetry open alike to mirth or melancholy, but for the most part best occupied by subjects of sublimity. Mr. Moore has devoted his talents to a good cause, but it may be a matter of question to some, whether the author's *goodness* be not more conspicuous than his *poetry*. But if he have none of the rapture and sublimity of our best lyric writers, he has more than any of his cotemporaries, and may, with safety, be allotted a place after the deceased Mr. Mason.—This author has rejected most of the *common place* of poetry, and if his poems possess little of what may strictly be called originality, they are seldom given up to triteness. There is one fault which we believe, will strike every reader; his odes are too long, and not sufficiently irregular:—we allude to the metre which is in too many the same. Some subjects are not well adapted to the ode; such as 'An Ode occasioned by the Atheistical tenets publicly avowed in France,' and 'An Angel's survey of the 'World.' In his moral poems Mr. Moore frequently attains to excellence, but when he writes to 'Delia singing,' or to a 'Lady on her Birth-day,' he is not above mediocrity. These subjects, as they are generally trifling, require a skill and a polish of which he was not master; and the warmest friend of this gentleman must allow that, whatever vigour and occasional sublimity he might possess, to harmony and refinement he has very moderate pretensions: indeed all his minor odes are too like the contributions to a magazine,—but his 'Private Life,' his 'Complaint,' and many other poems suggest a wish that he had not sunk into his grave before the public had known his worth both as a man and a writer.

A Treatise

A Treatise on the Functions and Duties of a Constable: containing Details and Observations interesting to the Public, as they relate to the Corruption of Morals and the Protection of the peaceful Subject against penal and criminal Offences. By P. Colquhoun, L.L.D. 8vo. 6s. 6d. sewed. Mawman, 1803.

MR. COLQUHOUN has something like the merit of an original author. England has at all times swarmed with writers on political œconomy, but the magnitude of their plan has not permitted them to stoop to the inferior considerations of the police of a city or a town. The French writers on this subject have undoubtedly merit, but Mr. C. in his 'Police of the Metropolis' may challenge a comparison with their best efforts. This gentleman has remitted nothing of his assiduity in his original plan, but, in the work before us, has explained with much legal knowledge, and great simplicity, the duties and functions of that honourable and ancient officer, a constable.—The choice of these peace-officers is frequently in the breast of those who are but little acquainted with the duties they delegate to them, and the office of a constable is perhaps the only one, in a country whose dread of tyranny has induced it to ascertain the limitations of every other authority, which yet remains unsettled and understood by few. Mr. C. therefore, deserves the highest credit for his attempt, and seconded by the co-operation of his brother magistrates, much may be done for the peace of the metropolis, and the safety of the individual, in thus strengthening the hands of that useful set of men, to whom our security is entrusted in the hours when we cannot watch for ourselves.

Thaddeus of Warsaw: By Miss Porter, in 4 vols. 14s. boards. Longman and Rees, 1803.

THADDEUS of Warsaw is a novel founded, in part, on historic facts: this practice in our modern novelists has been objected against, on the ground that it is to confound truth and fiction. We confess that we do not see it in this light, but are better pleased when a novelist builds on a certain foundation, than when he trusts solely to the fruits of his fancy. The assailants of this practice confound the probability of mixing truth and falsehood with the necessity of doing it: few read a novel to obtain a knowledge of history; nor does it follow, if they should, that there is a danger of being misled by misrepresentations.

This production of Miss Porter's we have found sufficiently interesting to make us pursue the story through four volumes; the fable is well arranged; the incidents well contrived, and the language sufficiently simple, and, for the most part, free from grammatical inaccuracies. In short, Thaddeus of Warsaw may be read with pleasure by those whose severity of morals does not often permit them to relax with this kind of reading.

We are at a loss to know whether the dedication to Sir Sidney Smith be not somewhat ironical; it seems no very natural inference, because the celebrated Sir Philip Sidney was a *writer* of romances, that the hero of Acre should be a *reader* of them.

Emma; or, the Foundling of the Wood. By Miss Brooke, Daughter of the late Henry Brooke. 3s. 6d. boards, Crosby & Co.

THE claim of the authoress of Emma is strong, being no less than that of affinity with Brooke, the author of the "Fool of Quality." However, we have not to learn, for the first time, that genius is no inheritance; but, respect for the memory of Mr. Brooke shall protect his grand-daughter from the severities of criticism, and, since the circulating libraries must be supplied, why not Emma as well as another?

The

The Hero of the North: an historical Play, as now performing at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Written by Mr. Dimond, jun. Author of the Sea-Side Story, &c. 2s. 6d. Barker, 1803.

AS we have just started the name of Mr. Brooke, we shall observe, that we are now encountering an author who, making use of the same materials with that writer in his play of Gustavus, has no claim of *affinity* with him, either by blood or genius. Many circumstances have long precluded us from the entertainment of a theatre; and the use of a little philosophy, together with the conviction of the present declining state of the stage, has reconciled us to our loss. The Hero of the North will not sharpen much the pangs of disappointment; what we have done penance to in the closet we have no reason to regret not having seen upon the stage. Indeed, the worst effects of these flimsy productions fall upon us, who have no opportunity of being prejudiced in their favour by the magic of sound, the decorations of scenery, or the powers of the actor, but are compelled to review them stript of their ornaments, and judge them on the ground of unassisted merit. But a first attempt deserves not to be too roughly handled; Mr. Dimond may improve, and God grant he may!

Sermons upon Subjects interesting to Christians of every Denomination. By Thomas Taylor. 8vo. 455 pp, 7s. boards. Longman & Rees.

THE author of these sermons is the pastor of the church and congregation of protestant dissenters in Carter-lane, with whom he states himself to have been connected for more than thirty-six years, and at whose request the following discourses were published. These proofs of confidence and esteem towards a man who has been too long known to have his character mistaken it would be uncandid to suppress, and perhaps an author can never appear before the public with a better right to be heard than that which this gentleman professes. As he discusses the greater truths of christianity without any private partiality to a particular sect, the member of the established church cannot be offended with him, though a dissenter; as his arguments are clear and irrefragrable, and his talents manifestly equal to the subject on which they are engaged, they are to be judged on the score of their own merit, nor shall any difference of religious opinion warp our sentiments, or excite us to any acrimony in the judgment we pronounce. We are pleased, therefore, in being able to assure the reader that these sermons are interesting to christians of whatever sect or denomination they may be; that they are written in a style of pure and manly eloquence, equally free from the *cant* of methodism, and the wild declamation of the modern enthusiast; that they support, in a clear and regular chain of argument, those immortal truths on which our hopes are built, and that no one, of any taste or feeling can peruse them, without being a better man, or a more improved scholar.

Two Sermons preached at the New Meeting, in Birmingham, by John Kentish. 1s. 6d. Johnson, 1803.

The first sermon is on the nature and duties of the Christian ministry: in this, among many other doctrines, against which we enter our protest, the author contends that the just ends of religion and government are not promoted, but will rather be defeated, by an attempt to force them into an unnatural alliance. He then, with a singular modesty, declines to produce all the arguments which may be successfully urged against a state religion, but remarks, that the magistrate can seldom judge so properly of the qualifications required by a christian society in its minister, as the members of that society; nor can he feel an equal interest in supplying their wants.

This is the hacknied argument of the enemies of the established church—

By appointing a decent independence for the ministers of religion, the state has secured them from the degradation of soliciting ALMS for their support, and has given to those, whose functions demand it, that respectability and authority which, without some degree of affluence, would be lost in unavoidable contempt:—but it is false that the state is the only judge of the qualifications of the clergy—the bestowing of benefices is, for the most part, vested in the hands of private patrons, and in learned bodies of men, who are likely to judge of the qualifications of those suited to fill them better than a capricious multitude.—Let any candid person take a survey of the higher offices of the church, and then enquire whether they are filled by the tools of power and venality? If we have any thing to lament, it is the frequent carelessness and corruption of private patrons: the dignities to which the state presents, are well known to be filled by men who have almost uniformly purchased their advancement by their learning and piety.

A Poetical Petition against Tractorising Trumpery and the Perkinistic Institution; in four Cantos, most respectfully addressed to the Royal College of Physicians. By Christopher Caustic, M. D. LL.D. ASS. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Aberdeen, and Honorary Member of no less than 19 very learned Societies. 8vo. 92 pp. 3s. 6d. Hurst.

THE imitatorsof Hudibras are more numerous than those of any other poet, but their success has not been in proportion to their numbers, and, from some cause or another, the spirit of the muse of Butler has been caught by few of his followers. The ill success of these imitations is to be charged on the mistaken notion which the author forms of the poetry of Hudibras: the rhymes and metre seem to require little research, and any one who can count the syllables, is supposed capable of making the verse. This single error, has deluded many, for, notwithstanding the little apparent labour in Butler's versification, the quaintness and peculiarity of the poetry, as it is one of its greatest merits, was, in truth, the most laborious part of his undertaking. But the insufficient imitators of this poet consider his style of versification an advantage in their favour, and misled by this apparent ease, too frequently substitute, for Hudibrastic poetry, mere *doggerel rhyme*. To a charge of this nature the author of the present epistle pleads *not guilty*;—with the mantle of Butler he has likewise something of his inspiration, and has imitated him no less in his versification than in the spirit which supports it. It was the great excellence of Butler that he ridiculed with effect the extravagances of learning and false philosophy; the author in review before us has likewise rallied with a delicate vein of irony the absurdities of the Galvanic system and its professors; and if his notes upon this subject had been a little more decorous, we should have bestowed upon this part of his poem our unqualified approbation. We hope to see this corrected in a future edition.

The Asiatic Annual Register, or View of the History of Hindostan, and of the Politics, Commerce, and Literature of Asia, for the Year 1803. 8vo. 13s. 6d. bds. Debrett.

THREE volumes of this work are already before the public;—we need not observe that the present is precisely on the same plan as the others, which took for their model Dodsley's Annual Register. But the editors of the Asiatic Annual Register should have adhered closer to the celebrated original, or not have pursued the same plan. Had Mr. Burke, when he proposed to Dodsley the former work, commenced his historical part with the reign of William the Conqueror, the public would not have thought much of the novelty of the attempt, or have thanked him for an account

which

which Rapin, Rider, and others, might have given as well as himself. An error of this nature is the leading one of the present production. The political and commercial occurrences of Asia, the public events of the year, the history of literature and of the arts, are subjects interesting to all, whether connected with India or not; but who can desire to read, in a *Register of Annual Occurrences*, the history of its first conquerors, the devastations of a Kouli Khan, or an Aurengzebe. This volume, however, contains more original matter than any other work upon the same plan; this is a strong claim upon the public, which will, undoubtedly, be acknowledged. The characters, the miscellaneous tracts, the literary correspondence, and the translations from the eastern poets, are subjects of a nature no less interesting than useful.

An Essay on the Relation between the specific Gravities, and the Strengths and Values of Spirituous Liquors: with Rules for the adaptation of Mr. Gilpin's Tables to the present Standard; and two new Tables for finding the per-centage, and Concentration, when the specific Gravity and Temperature are given. By Atkins & Co. Mathematical Instrument Makers. 4to. 86 pp. 5s. Cadell, 1803.

THIS treatise is presented to the commissioners of the Treasury, and is grounded upon what has long been a subject of complaint, the unequal standard of weights and measures, more particularly in respect to wine and spirits. What the present work proposes may be seen by the title; we have only to add that the subject is discussed in a very masterly and scientific manner, though certainly not in a style of simplicity sufficient for the common reader; perhaps, it may be somewhat beyond the depth even of his majesty's commissioners. The art of explaining science in a manner adapted to common comprehension, does not appear to be the portion of Mr. Atkins and his firm: we humbly conceive these principles might have been laid open in a more concise and simple way, and Mr. Atkins and his partners need not have occupied the whole season of the Christmas recess in a work which is extremely ponderous and officiously explanatory.

Italian Jealousy, or the History of Lady Georgina Cecil. By the Duchess of Pienne, in three Volumes, 8vo. 13s. 6d. boards. Hurst, 1803.

BOOKS of this class, if they have but a pleasing story and a variety of natural incidents, are sure of a favourable reception. We take them up to pass away an idle hour, or to vary the entertainment of literature, and all we require of their authors is to keep our curiosity awake, and give a gentle movement to our passions. Works of this nature, indeed, have a strong recommendation in themselves, of which, though the practice of our profession might justify the concealment, we are yet too candid to hide the reason. Their pages are easily skimmed over; we are not condemned to toil through a volume before we can form an opinion of their general merit; we may read them at our afternoon tea, or listen, in a gentle dose, whilst they are read by a grand-daughter; they demand no exercise of our greater duties, and call but seldom for the severities of criticism.

It is with much pleasure that we take the opportunity of recommending the present production of the dutchess of Pienne: it is, in truth, a very sensible, well-written novel, and has a much better claim to distinction than many which have lately issued from the press. The story is simple, and well related; the incidents sufficiently numerous and natural. The reflections which are every where interspersed, are in the purest style of morality, and the writer frequently evinces a capacity of discrimination, and a knowledge of men and manners, which is unusual in works of this kind. In re-

turn for the pleasure we have found in the perusal of Lady Georgina Cecil, we bestow upon her grace, with a hearty good will, this testimony of our approbation.

The Life of Richard Earl Howe. By George Mason. 8vo. 111 pp. 5s. boards. White, 1803.

THE good-natured observation of Pliny, speaking of the writers of history, 'historia quoquo modo scripta delectat,' may equally be applied to those who present us with the lives of illustrious men;..for such is the pleasure we receive from a relation even of their most minute actions, that their biographer would scarcely fail to please should he relate even their tattle to their children. The author confesses the present work but an imperfect sketch; in truth it is,—but we will carry the foregoing observation in our mind, and abate our harshness towards Mr. Mason.

This gentleman it appears was honoured with a considerable share of the confidence of Lord Howe, and, 'enjoying these advantages, he was so particularly taken with many testimonies of unusual good sense, which pervaded the noble earl's most familiar conversations, that he deposited all his anecdotes, maxims, and opinions, in the cabinet of a faithful memory—thence, 'with due selection, to be now produced to the public.'

We think, therefore, that the best way to perform our duty to this author, is to select a few of these anecdotes...'It was the custom of Lord Howe 'to go below after an action, and talk to every wounded man, sitting by the 'sides of their cradles, and constantly ordering his live stock and wines to 'be applied to their use at the discretion of the surgeon, and at all times for 'the sick on board.' The penetrating foresight of Lord Howe into military events is thus recorded by Mr. Mason. 'When in 1779 earl Cornwallis 'commanded an army in America; some at home thought him in a danger-'ous situation, but others not. I asked Lord Howe's opinion, who imme-'diately replied, he did not see how he could possibly escape.' This prediction in a few weeks was unfortunately verified. 'In 1791, when the duke 'of Brunswick, at the head of a most potent army, was advancing towards 'Paris, and it was generally imagined, nothing could oppose him, Lord 'Howe said, he would find it a very difficult matter to procure subsistence 'for an army in a country perfectly hostile.' It was soon after this, that the duke of Brunswick, to the utter amazement of the world, retreated.' 'When 'Buonaparte had landed at Alexandria, Lord Howe said, it is a wild scheme, 'he will make nothing of it.'

The reader will be astonished that these are the principal treasures of sentiment and reflection, which Mr. Mason hasbeen enabled to collect in his acquaintance with earl Howe...It is truly ridiculous when an author makes a parade of such pompous nothings. But our complaint against Mr. Mason is not that he relates the frivolities of Lord Howe, but that he exposes, with too much minuteness, his own...His book is crammed with quotations from Latin authors, which are seldom applicable, and seem to proceed from the vanity of saying in another language, what might as well be said in his own. Mr. Mason, we observe is troubled with the garrulity of old age, for which, indeed, he offers some excuse, but he should have known that, though this garrulity might be pardoned when occupied by such a subject as Lord Howe, it is entitled to little indulgence when confined merely to himself. This gentleman, in one part of his life, was a poet, and his muse was employed in singing the victory of the first of June. This poem, of which we shall subjoin the first stanza, is given in the present work; it is a paraphrase of the 37th ode of Horace...Nunc est bibendum.—

Now

Now may true Britons quaff their bowls,
Now freely use the bounding dance,
In spite of envy's furious shoals,
And all the raging power of France;
Now hearty comrades o'er securer coasts,
At board convivial thank the God of hosts.

This we think will decide the character of Mr. Mason as a poet, as what we have above related will settle his reputation as a writer of biography.

A Domestic Treatise on the Diseases of Horses and Dogs so conducted as to enable Persons to practise with Ease and Success on their own animals without the Assistance of a Farrier, including likewise the natural Management as Stabling, Feeding, Exercise, &c. together with the Outlines of a Plan for the Establishment of genuine Medicines for these animals throughout the Kingdom. By Delabere Blaine. 12mo. 179 pp. 3s. 6d. boards. Boosey, 1803.

WE have seen with much satisfaction during the latter years of our life, the science of anatomy and physiology advanced to much perfection, whilst the benefit of these discoveries has not been confined to the human frame but extended to the brute creation:—that useful animal the horse has deservedly come in for his share, and a treatment of his disorders has at length been established on scientific principles, and no longer left to the prescriptions of a farrier, or a stable-boy. Mr. Blaine has obtained considerable credit by his former productions, and is generally allowed to have given a more complete and scientific system of the veterinary art than any other writer on the subject. We can confidently pronounce, that his fame will suffer no diminution by his present work. It is a laudable attempt to lay open a science of very general utility, which has been confined exclusively to a few practitioners, and to explain in a simple manner the method of curing the distempers of domestic animals, which are generally suffered to fall a prey to disorders, either from want of skill, or assistance. It seems the intention of Mr. Blaine to make every man his own veterinary surgeon; for which purpose he gives a short account of the several disorders with which dogs and horses are affected, and then passes to the method of their cure. We can perceive, indeed, that he is labouring to do for the veterinary art, what Dr. Buchan has done for physic,—to simplify it, and make it more generally understood: we shall only add, that we wish all possible success to his attempt, for we cannot acknowledge the use of concealing the principles of a science, which is eminently beneficial, and easily comprehended.

Researches into the Properties of Spring-water, with medical Cautions, illustrated by Cases, against the Use of Lead in the Construction of Pumps, Water-pipes, Cisterns, &c. By William Lambe, M.D. 8vo. 204 pp. 4s. bds. Johnson, 1803.

'THIS treatise is intended as a supplement to a work of Sir George Baker's 'examination of the several means, by which the poison of lead may be sup-'posed frequently to gain admittance into the human body, unobserved and 'unsuspected.' The practice which this author intends to reprobate is, the use of lead pumps, the danger of which he seems to magnify much beyond the apprehension. The discovery of this evil he affirms to have been retarded by the imperfection of the chemical art, and he hopes now that he has shewn its existence, every attempt will be made to remove it. This gentleman, indeed, considerably alarms us, and now that he has got a footing in our kitchen, he may, perhaps, quarrel with some other utensils of domestic economy; our kettles and our saucepans may share the fate of lead-pumps and

and cisterns, and we may soon want even a gridiron for our *beefsteak*, or *chop*.

It is but justice to this author, who is a learned and scientific man, to subjoin one of the cases which he offers in support of his system: we select from a great number—

'A gentleman of Worcester was the father of a numerous offspring 'having had one and twenty children, of whom eight died young, and thir-'teen survived their parents. During their infancy, and, indeed, until they 'had quitted their usual residence, they were all remarkably unhealthy, 'being particularly subject to disorders of the stomach and bowels. The 'father, during many years, was paralytic; the mother, for as long a time, 'subject to cholics, and bilious obstructions: she died at last of an obstinate 'jaundice. After the death of the parents, the family sold the house, which 'they had so long inhabited. The purchaser found it necessary to repair 'the pump; this was made of lead, which, upon examination, was found 'to be so corroded, that several perforations were observed in the cylinder, 'in which the bucket plays; and the cistern, in the upper part, was re-'duced to the thinness of common brown-paper, and was full of holes like 'a sieve.'

Letters from France. By John King, Esq. 8vo. 168 pp. 5s. bds. Jones, 1803.

THESE letters, we are informed, were sent to a gentleman in London during the last autumn, and Mr. King, on his return to England, was requested to publish them; he made no objection, if he could be permitted first to correct them; but his affairs having engrossed all his time, they are given to the world in their original state, without receiving the last polish from his hand.

This manner of coming before the public, and apologizing for incorrectness, is a trite and hackneyed trick with authors; but Mr. King is new to the trade; this is a first attempt, and he is, perhaps, sincere.

Though we confess our surprise at finding this gentleman in the list of authors, we are sorry to add, that no great pleasure is mixed with our astonishment, and we could readily have excused Mr. King for never having taken up his pen, since we find it productive of fruits which must needs be unpalatable to our taste, and we fear to many of our readers.

As this work professes to contain letters from France, it is of course, confined to no particular subject. The author had an unlimited range; he might choose whatever was most congenial to his talents, and cull, from the scene before him, what habit, education, or study had best qualified him to illustrate: if the reader finds no account of towns and cities, he cannot accuse him, as he calls himself neither topographist, nor antiquarian; if trade and manufactures have escaped his observation, the writer may defy censure, for he affects not the name of a politician; if the state of the finer arts has not been thought worthy of his attention, Mr. King does not stile himself one of the class of cognoscenti. But the fault which we have to charge upon Mr. King is not, that he is neither geographer, politician, nor virtuoso, that he is neither these characters collectively, nor any one of them singly, but that, in fact, he is *nothing at all*.

His letters are frivolous in the extreme; and, though there is no want of attempt at solid observation, and deep thinking, the author is miserably deficient in all his efforts, and seldom rises above a hacknied argument in favour of the French revolution.

In his first letter we have the following sentence:—'Great crimes were 'perpetrated at the French revolution; but, balance the crimes against the 'heroism, magnanimity, and virtue of some of the revolutionists, and the 'scale will strike the beam; it produced the twenty-two famous for their

'wisdom, their honesty, and their martyrdom, that twenty-two who were 'the dignity and virtue of the convention; that twenty-two that com-'prised Vergniaud, Condorcet, Barbaroux, Gaudet; Brissot, &c. &c.' This will at once explain the politics and style of Mr. King. The name of Bailly, unquestionably the most virtuous man among the first assembly of the tiers etat, is omitted: Mr. King, we suppose, includes him among his etceteras; but, can any one hear with patience, virtue, integrity, and disinterestedness, attributed to the first organiser of atheism, and the founder of the Brissotine club?

In page 50, we have the following passage:—

'Who would exist as Bonaparte does? It is never known whether he is 'at Paris, or St. Cloud; and, at either place, he is inaccessible. Messen-'gers are examined, interrogated, and dismissed; letters go through various 'hands, and are analized before they are delivered; even at the review a 'croud of officers surround him; he is hemmed in on all sides by select ad-'herents; he is never seen alone; never goes abroad for recreation; im-'mured in his palace walls, he is as much a prisoner as the state victims in 'the temple; with more anxiety and fears; the end of their punishment is 'imprisonment—but, with the Consul, the apprehension of mischief does 'not cease with sequestration.'

This description of the gloomy tyrant of the Thuilleries affords an aweful lesson of the justice of Providence, and convinces us that retribution begins in this life. The state in which the revolution has left France is not badly described by Mr. King, but it certainly makes against his arguments in favour of that event altogether. The author proceeds to relate many curious anecdotes which have never before met the public eye. He gives an account of several distinguished Englishmen who were at Paris the same time with himself, and adds many pleasant circumstances concerning the great champion of the French revolution, Mr. Fox; but, of his opponent on this subject, Mr. Burke, he speaks in the following manner, page 102:

'Either Mr. Burke has not comprehended the French character, or he 'misrepresented it to please his partisans; the men he has so calumniated, 'have performed acts that have astonished him, and exhibited qualities 'which he has denied or misconstrued. When their chains were broken, 'and genius was no longer restrained, what a display of oratory charmed 'the auditors; they delivered the purest moral axioms, and the soundest 'politics: we found ardent, exuberant minds, profound thought, and le-'gislative knowledge in men, suddenly emerged from obscurity; they 'taught doctrines in every science better than the sages of antiquity, as 'if they obtained wisdom by intuition, or were endowed with greater men-'tal capacities than ordinary. Men of such organization did not require 'that long application, and intense study, that men of duller dispositions 'want.'

It is not necessary we should enter into a defence of Mr. Burke's character, who rather made himself a party by his writings, than wrote to please any; but we cannot allow that the men he has deservedly exposed performed any acts which astonished, otherwise than by their atrocious wickedness. He never denied them the qualities they possessed; it was his labour to exhibit them in their true colours, which necessarily excited detestation in every honest mind. Does Mr. King call that execrable din which deafened the club-rooms of Paris, genius and oratory? There was something of eloquence, perhaps, in the wild declamations of Mirabeau, but what does he think of the unstudied harrangues of Robespiere? 'They delivered the purest moral axioms, and the soundest politics!' Surely this writer must be in jest, or his notions of morality must be of the same colour with his politics. What morality could there possibly be in annulling the marriage tie, authorising

rising the infidelity of husband and wife, and opening the way to the worst kind of profligacy in legitimatising bastard children. These are the hinges on which the morality of a people depend; the sacredness of the marriage-tie is observed by nations among whom refinement and civilization have scarcely crept; and, to have destroyed it in a kingdom, in the bosom of Europe, which had long given examples to its neighbours, was to spread abroad so noxious a contagion of immorality, corruption, and every species of depravity, as at once to justify surrounding nations in having recourse to arms to '*abate a nuisance*' to the morals of the rest of Europe.

Is it credible, that any man in his senses can call this pure morality? But, what does Mr. King mean by ascribing legislative knowledge to men suddenly emerged from obscurity, 'who taught doctrines in every science better 'than the sages of antiquity.' This author should have known, that legislative knowledge is the least intuitive of any; and though we have heard that Providence has fashioned great men to supply the peculiar exigencies of the times, yet we have seldom found the proper gymnasium for these counsellors, the stage, or the mountebank's box; but it is ridiculous to waste time in controverting arguments no less hacknied than ill founded. We will give another extract from this work, page 104—

'If there have been,' says he, 'murders in Lewis the Sixteenth's time, 'so there were murders in Charles the First's time; if the French had a Car-'rier, we had a Kirke. It happens unfortunately for the author, that Kirke did not live in the reign of Charles the First. 'Their Robespierre hardly 'exceeded our Jeffreys." There was some difference in the cruelty of these men, notwithstanding what Mr. King says; about as much, perhaps, as between the slaughters of a Nero, and the condemnations of an Augustus Cæsar.

But heated by his political phrensy, Mr. King never makes distinctions;—'Lord Cornwallis may come to France, and Bonaparte may send to England; a 'treaty of peace may be formed, and the people seem to approximate, but their 'minds do not assimilate; a republican government is a radical structure.'

Neither to this principal, nor to the manner in which it is expressed, do we feel ourselves inclined to assent; who ever heard of a '*structure* '*taking root*?' moreover, our experience in the history of different nations has taught us to put little confidence in the stability of governments purely republican; besides, the observations of Mr. King plainly shew, that the present government of France is a complete autocracy. The author proceeds—'Its base is solid and broad, and requires no factitious aid; there 'is no arrogated authority to support.' Some authority must be supported in every government, and, in republics, it more frequently happens, that power is arrogated than in monarchies, where there is an hereditary and lineal succession. 'It exists by unanimous consent, and requires no artifice 'or delusion to maintain it: here is the moral and political cement; not 'courtly, unmeaning manifestoes, but a concurrence of wishes, and a cor-'dial alliance.' It is impossible to know the meaning of this last sentence; manifestoes belong to one government no more than to another, and, if they be unmeaning, are innocent baubles whatsoever hands they fall into. A concurrence of wishes, and a cordial alliance, are the best supports of every kind of government, but they are seldom found in Republics, which are uniformly a prey to factions, and the interests of contending demagogues. This visionary Utopia, of which Mr. King has formed to himself a notion, was never in the contemplation of the first founders of the French revolution: but Mr. King is inconsistent with himself; in the first part of his book he expatiates on the tyranny of the French government, and laments the miseries of the victims of imprisonment; and, in this letter, we find him changing his sentiments, and predicting an interruption to the

peace

peace of the two kingdoms, because the French goverment is so *good*, and ours (this can be his only inference) is so *bad!*—We are at a loss to understand the sentence above quoted in another manner—But enough of the political parts of this work.

In letter 21st. Mr. King gives some account of a club formed at Paris under the presidentship of the celebrated Miss Helen Maria Williams—an extract from this letter may gratify the reader, and shall close our account of a work we have perused with no very great satisfactson—speaking of the club—'The hostess of this community, he continues, is Miss H. M. 'Williams, who, by her long residence in France, seems to have renounced 'England; she is little known in the literary world, but is no where of such 'great estimation as in her own opinion; at this coterie presides a Mr. Stone, 'why the honor of presidency is conferred on him, is not easy to surmise, 'for he is not famed for literary talents, or any talents that any one but Miss 'Williams could discover: Mr. Holcroft is also a member, and most of the 'persons visit who have been conspicuous in England for their political opi-'nions; this community considers itself above the Sorbonne, or Royal So-'ciety; they establish from abstract reasoning a thousand extraordinary 'axioms; they build hypothesis upon hypothesis, till they out-reach human 'understanding; they lay down premises and deduce consequences which are 'neither in logic nor in common sense; and they are not mere speculators, 'not always upon metaphysics; their chief study is the fate of things, and 'nations; they appear to be possessed of every state secret; they have dived 'into the mysteries and intrigues of every government; they calculate to a 'second the political existence of every nation in Europe; where the funds 'will fall in one country, taxes overwhelm another, and general bankruptcy 'another; but whoever hears their gloomy presages, perceives any state 'might avert its fate, if it was prudent enough to chuse its first minister 'from their society.'

This is not without humour, and if every part of Mr. King's work had been like it, we should have found little to censure—The author's style may be perceived in the extracts we have given, as well as his character, the political traits of which we cannot commend—a minute criticism on a work of this nature would be tedious and unnecessary. We shall only observe that the expression in page 4, '*The people is*' is a Gallicism; there are many other inaccuracies, which are rather faults of taste, than violations of grammar, but we can devote no more of our time to this author.

Mooriana; or Selections from the Moral, Philosophical, and Miscellaneous Works of the late Dr. John Moore; illustrated by a new biographical and critical Account of the Doctor and his Writings; and Notes historical, classical, and explanatory. By the Rev. E. Prevost, and F. Blagdon, Esq. In Two Volumes, 12mo. 10s. boards. Crosby & Co.

IT has lately been a usual and, perhaps, not unpleasing practice, of certain modest writers of the day, to exercise a species of chemical process upon authors of established reputation; and bringing their folios and quartos into the alembic, extract a decent duodecimo for the amusement of superficial readers...These gentlemen appear persuaded, with the Greek proverb, 'That a great book is a great evil,' and, perhaps, forget at the same time that a little book may be one in a similar proportion. We do not, however, affirm that the authors of Mooriana have produced a work of this nature, the selection is not altogether without taste, and, on the whole, we may safely recommended it to the readers of Anas. The life of Dr. Moore, which is prefixed, is less general, and more to the point, than any we have seen; we could almost advise Mr. Blagdon to turn his attention to subjects of greater moment.

Histoire des expeditions d'Alexandre, &c. History of Alexander's expeditions, compiled from the memoirs of his Lieutenants, Ptolemy and Aristobulus; by Flavius Arrianus of Nicomedia, surnamed the New Xenophon, Consul and Roman General, a disciple of Epictetus. A new translation, by P. Chaussard. 3 vols. 8vo. with an atlas 4to.

WE were promised about a twelvemonth since, a translation of Arrian, by subscription, from the Oxford press—and are concerned that we have heard no more of a work so much desired.—The voyage of Nearchus, and the periplûs of the Erythrean sea by Dr. Vincent; together with the geographical labours of Major Rennel, have of late directed our attention to the hydrographical knowledge of the ancients, which it is impossible to illustrate without the assistance of Arrian, who is little known in this country to any but the learned reader.—A translation has thus become more than ever necessary, and we are sorry that M. Chaussard has anticipated the labours of our own countrymen.

The cause involving the question of Alexander's fame, is one of the most difficult to be decided. The renown acquired by that conqueror is still perpetuated by mere tradition in many of the remote countries which he ravaged, and is diffused by history throughout the rest of the world. The bias inherent in almost all mankind to admire, even at their own expence, what is brilliant and extraordinary, has rendered most historians tributary to Alexander's glory. Notwithstanding from time to time, philosophy has stepped forward, has submitted to impartial examination the hero so frequently extolled upon credit, and corrected the exaggerations of history. With every new work of which the son of Philip is the subject, the enquiry seems to be recommenced, and instead of advancing nearer to a decision, we are the farther removed from it. It is not the fault of the new translator of Arrian that it cannot even now be pronounced.—Arrian an author far more worthy of credit than Quintus Curtius, is much less known than the latter, whose manner, though more pleasing, frequently degenerates into extravagant declamation, and as the Greek language is less cultivated than the Latin, he thus obtains a twofold claim to preference in our seminaries.

Flavius Arrianus born at Nicomedia in Bithynia, lived under Adrian and the two Antonines. He was a disciple of Epictetus, whose first maxims he published, priest of Proserpine and Ceres in his native country, a freeman of Athens and Rome, appointed consul by the emperor, and governor of Cappadocia. The first men of his age thought themselves honored by his friendship, Lucian never speaks of him but with veneration, Pliny the younger dedicates seven of his letters to him—Arrian was surnamed the New Xenophon, and as a soldier, a statesman and a writer, he proposed Xenophon as his model.

In writing the history of that celebrated expedition he had all the assistance that can be desired by one who was not an eye witness of the circumstances he relates. There were still extant at this time the memoirs of Ptolemy and Aristobulus, Alexander's lieutenants; Alexander's own journal published by his secretary Eumenes; the itinerary of the army described by Diognetes and Beton, geometricians attached to the expedition, and the description of the conquered provinces, compiled by Xenocles, treasurer to the king. Such were the materials that Arrian employed, and from his philosophical spirit, his sagacity, his military knowledge and his talents proved by various other writings, it may be presumed that he made good use of them.

No new French translation of his history had appeared since that by Perrot

rot Dablancourt in 1646, which is now become useless by the changes that have taken place in the style and improvements in the language.

The French must therefore be indebted to M. Chaussard for having rescued from a kind of oblivion, one of the most valuable productions of Grecian literature. "The epoch of a new era, and of the commencing century, he says in his preface, appears the more favorable for the publication of this work, as on the one hand, the military details in which Arrian excels, and to which other historians paid too little attention, excite a greater interest, and on the other hand there was never such abundance of materials either critical or geographical for completing the text of Arrian and which almost invariably attest his veracity."

This preface is followed by a review of Alexander's historians, extracted in a great measure, as the author himself informs us, from the excellent work of M. de Saint-Croix, entitled: *Critical examination of the historians of Alexander*, a work celebrated amongst all the literati of Europe, and of which the author is at the present moment preparing a new edition. But it treats only of ancient historians, whilst M. Chaussard comprehends in his review those of modern times. He begins with the Alexandreid of Gualtherus, who having followed the historical method in that Latin poem, ma be ranked among the historians. He mentions the *whole history of Alexander* by Duverdier with the contempt it so justly deserves. All those French authors that have written particularly on Alexander, or have given an opinion upon him in works of which he was not the only subject, from the eloquent Bossuet, and the sage Rollin to those of later times, and all of whom were not equally eloquent, nor equally wise, are then accurately appreciated.

The translation of the text of Arrian is preceded by an historical notice on Arrian, and another on the editions and translations of his history into different languages;* preliminary remarks on the difference between ancient and modern tactics; lastly an historical introduction containing the political situation of Greece in general and of Macedon in particular; a sketch of the reign of Philip, and of the first years of Alexander, and the occasion and motives of the war with the Persians. These are of great utility in assisting to understand the author better.

In the new translation, the seven books which are not broken in the original, are divided into chapters, and those into paragraphs; each chapter and likewise each paragraph is preceded by a summary indicative of the events and the minor parts of the action; lastly each chapter is followed by very copious notes, containing the reflections of different literati, the researches or discussions to which the facts narrated have given occasion. To the two volumes thus occupied, a third is added by way of supplement, composed of new details, traditions, comparisons, various opinions extracted

* The author mentions but one translation into Italian, by Ramusio, but in this he is mistaken. The following circumstance may probably be the cause of this error: In the sixteenth century J. B. Ramusio published a collection of voyages, printed at Venice by the celebrated Juntes, in 3 vols. 4to. Of the various articles in this valuable collection several are by Ramusio himself, and among others, *the navigation of Nearchus, from the Greek of Arrian*, translated into Italian, *a discourse on that navigation* and *the navigation of Arrian from the Red Sea to the East Indies*, likewise translated into Italian, with a discourse by the translator.

With regard to Alexander's expedition, there is but one translation in Italian that is known; it is by P. Lauro of Modena, and is the only one mentioned by Fontanini, Apostolo Zeno, Haym and all the Italian biographers. The following is its exact title: *Arriano di Nicomedia chiamato Nuovo Xenofonte de i fatti del Magno Alexandro re di Macedonia, nuovamente di greco tradotto in Italiano per Pietro Lauro Modenese. In Vinegia appresso Michele Tramezino, 1544, in 8vo.*

from ancient and modern historians, orators, moralists and poets; so that it is in fact the complete process of Alexander's reputation that is submitted to the examination and judgment of the reader.

To speak more accurately, three persons here pass in review; the hero, the historian and the translator. We shall not undertake a formal examination of all three: we shall only glance at them.

The brilliant valor, frequently bordering on rashness, of the former is of all his qualities the least contested. He is seen in every combat exposing his own life like an inferior officer, and sometimes like a private soldier. When he harangues his army previous to new expeditions, he can speak of his wounds and if necessary shew them, which is a powerful auxiliary to military eloquence. He was wounded at the battle of Issus; at the siege of Gaza, at the river Jaxartes, at Cyropolis, in fighting the Aspiani, the Massageteæ; he rushes singly into a fort of the Malliani; being dangerously wounded, it is with the utmost difficulty that the soldiers penetrate to him, rescue him, and carry him off almost expiring on a shield.

His generosity, his magnanimity shine conspicuous in his solicitude to spare the house and family of Pindar, at the plunder of Thebes; in his generous confidence to his physician Philip, in his respectful soothing attention to the wife and daughter of Darius, and in many other circumstances. But how many odious and abominable vices counteracted the happy effects of the education he had received! How many traits of pride, pitiful vanity, intemperance, sanguinary ferocity, love of luxury, foolish prodigality! What murderous and unbounded ambition! so unbounded that it is impossible to say at what limits it would have stopped, if his soldiers, led by him beyond the Indus and the Hydraotes, had not at length refused to follow him, when he wished them to cross the Hydaspes for the purpose of traversing other rivers and massacring other nations.

A critical discussion of the qualities of his historian would upon the whole be favorable to him; excepting that his partiality as a Greek must frequently render his eulogies and his narrative suspicious, and that he concurs in the superstitions of his age and country, not so much, perhaps as other Greek historians, but more than would be expected of an intelligent man; that his manner which is generally excellent, and similar to that of his illustrious model, has nevertheless some considerable defects which that model had not; but those blemishes are counterbalanced by perspicuity, a noble and elegant simplicity of style, by the luminous order and connection of facts, by faithful representations and accurate descriptions of places, of the movements of armies, and different orders of battle, but particularly by a philosophic independence which frequently makes him the severe judge of his hero and the avenger of outraged humanity.

It is in the latter character that he appears to deserve the greatest regard. We are pleased, for example, to see his unqualified reprobation of the acts of cruelty which he is obliged to relate, such as the horrible mutilation of the murderer of Darius. This latter trait he attributes to the example of the Median, Persian or other barbarian sovereigns, whose pride Alexander had assumed with their spoils. "For the rest, he adds, like a worthy pupil of Epictetus, Alexander's exploits teach an important lesson: that a mortal man may be endowed with all the gifts of nature, that he may be distinguished by his illustrious birth, that his fortune and his military virtues may surpass even those of Alexander, that he may subdue Africa and Asia as Alexander proposed to do; that he may add Europe likewise to his empire, he will have done nothing towards general happiness, if, amidst the most unprecedented success, he does not preserve the greatest moderation."

With regard to the merits of the translation, the style is in general nervous, manly and perspicuous. The following observations on the system pursued

pursued by the translator, were suggested by a very rapid examination of the work.

The division of books into chapters, and the latter into paragraphs, all of which are preceded by their contents, certainly relieves the attention, according to the aim of the translator; but it likewise suspends it, and as a certain proportion of attention is necessary for feeling any interest, it appears to produce a general frigidity which diffuses itself over the whole narrative.

The translator, after the example of other learned moderns, has been obliged to introduce into his version, various Greek terms for which no signification exists in the French language, but with the precaution of completely defining them the first time he employs them. But perhaps he goes too far in terming the chiefs in some parts of India *anactes*; which word in Greek, signifies the same as *king*, and those chiefs, notwithstanding the small extent of their dominions, were nevertheless kings. He has likewise used the word *Somatophylax*, which neither has a French termination, nor the least analogy with the language; instead of adopting the equivalent expression, the *king's body guard*.

Arrian, after the manner of the Greeks, almost always adds to the name of a man or a warrior, that of his father, which produces a uniformity fatiguing to a modern reader. The translator with a view to avoid it in his text, has thrown these patronymies into his notes at the conclusion of each chapter. Perhaps he has done right in general, but in the Greek army there were many officers of the name, as Amyntas, Ptolemy, &c. A confusion arises, if for the sake of distinction, you do not denominate them like Arrian; Amyntas son of Andromenes, and Amyntas the son of Arabeus; Ptolemy the son of Lagus, Ptolemy the son of Philip, and Ptolemy the son of Seleucus.

M. Chaussard seems to have attained the aim he had in view, in the conception and execution of the work. That nothing may be wanting to the instruction of the reader, a fourth volume contains a sketch of the tactics of the ancients, with explanatory plates from Arrian, Ælian and Guichard; plans of the battle of Granicus, Issus and Arbela; designs of arms, machines, &c. with their explanations; medals of Alexander engraved and explained from Eckel, Winkelman, Leblond, Barthelemy and other celebrated antiquaries; a plan of the three Alexandrias communicated by General Reynier; plans of Tyre and Halicarnassus, prepared for this translation by M. Barbié de Bocage, and lastly a new and very accurate map of Alexander's expeditions.

De la Richesse Commerciale, ou Principes d'economie politique, appliqués a la legislation du commerce; Of Commercial Wealth, or the Principles of political Economy applied to the legislation of commerce. By J. C. L. Simonde of the Council of commerce, arts, and agriculture of the department of Leman, member of the Royal Academy of Florence, and of the Agricultural Society of Geneva. 2 vols. 8vo. 9 fr.

The French writers may be considered as the first who opened the way to a rational theory of those useful arts, which, as they contribute to the wealth of a kingdom, are the natural foundations of its power. They have placed commerce, agriculture, and the other arts of life upon certain established principles, which have tended to elucidate and advance them; but from all their collective works nothing could be extracted equal in penetration of mind, and enlargement of view, accuracy of judgment, and justness of connection, to the philosophical works of Anderson and Smith.—

The latter, indeed, may be considered as having given a complete analysis of society from its simplest state to its highest attainments; from it,

first rude essays in agriculture, commerce, &c. to the period of its present refinement.

It was reasonable to suppose that as Smith had profited by the light he had received from the French writers, they would, in their turn, avail themselves of his assistance: M. Simonde, the author of the following work, has availed himself of little else.

The author of this work has not pretended to embrace political economy in its utmost extent. 'Confining myself entirely to commercial wealth,' he says in his introduction, 'among the infinite numbers of subjects that pre-'sented themselves, I have selected the three that were most intimately 'connected with that part of the science, (capital, price and monopoly) and 'have endeavoured to elucdate them to the utmost of my ability,'

One half of the work, that is the first volume, is devoted to a developement of such principles as are connected with the object proposed by the author; the second volume contains the application of these principles to the existing laws and present situation of France. In this part the author compares facts with principles, and draws conclusions of practical utility.

His principles are those of Adam Smith, and M. Simonde's observations are a complete confirmation of the propositions supported by that celebrated writer. It is now as impossible to write on political economy without being thoroughly acquainted with Dr. Smith's book, as to write on natural history, and to remain ignorant of the works of Linnæus; or on chemistry without a knowledge of the theory of the French chemists.

From what has been already said, it may be supposed that the author of Commercial Wealth is a decided advocate for freedom of trade unshackled by all restraints but what are indispensible for the preservation of good order. He ridicules the endeavours of some nations to incline the balance of commerce in their favour; he points out the evils resulting from prohibitions and monopolies. He quotes these words of a distinguished member of the American legislature: 'When I see a European Government announcing by 'proclamation or the preamble to some edict, that it is determined to pro-'tect commerce, to revive industry, and to give animation to manufactures, 'I tremble for the subjects of such a power.'

The questions to which the author gives the greatest developement, and which in our opinion he completely resolves are the following: What classes of the nation derive advantage from prohibitions? and: What classes is it politic to favor?

Prohibitions are professedly designed to favour merchants and manufacturers; but if they can only be favored at the expence of a class that requires the solicitude of governments, must not the favors granted them be prejudicial? Now the class that ought most to excite the solicitude of government, is that of consumers, that is the whole nation, since in a nation every individual without exception is a consumer. M. Simonde hence draws this conclusion that a government can never be led into error, if, in every case, in the legislation of commerce, it consults and studies the interest of the consumer.

In an examination of this nature the system of duties cannot escape animadversion. From a very able calculation it results that in the author's department (the Leman) since it has been united to France and subjected to the payment of duties, the expence of a day laborer in clothing, and utensils, is greater by one fourth than before; that is, the prohibitory system has actually raised the price of those articles 25 per cent. according to an exact calculation made by the author.

Hence it is but fair to conclude, that the workmen, employed in all the French manufactures, labor under the same disadvantages, which added to the high rate of interest raise the price of their commodities, so that they cannot

cannot maintain a competition with those of other countries either in the foreign markets or at home.

But if prohibitions and duties upon importation, which are only mitigated prohibitions, were not detrimental to commerce, and were productive of no other effect than an encrease of price to the consumer, this would certainly be an evil. Of this France has furnished a recent example, and even since the impression of M. Simonde's work. 'The last prohibition to import loaf-sugar raised the price six sous per pound (about 20 per cent.) When it is considered that these six sous per pound are taken from the pocket of the consumers composed principally of persons of small fortune and the indigent classes of the community to swell the overgrown fortunes of twenty refiners, it must be admitted that this transfer of property is not only no advantage but even a detriment to a nation.

From the statistical accounts published by the different prefects, the author of *Commercial Wealth* has drawn up a statement of the principal manufactures of the departments of France; he has examined the advantages which each of them derives from the imposition of the duties with a view to encourage them; from this examination he concludes, that perfect freedom of trade would put a stop to a very small number of manufactures; would be prejudicial only to such as require continually fresh sacrifices for their support, and that on the other hand, it would operate as a powerful encouragement to many other manufactures, the most beneficial to the country,

The perusal and comparison of all these statistical documents lead to an explanation of great importance. It is asked how it happens that France increased one fourth in extent of territory pays with such extreme difficulty taxes not amounting to more than those formerly levied? But in perusing the statistical accounts of the departments, we see from the particulars collected on the spot in each canton that the productions of industry are diminished here one fourth, there a half and more frequently three fourths, from what they formerly were. Is then any further explanation necessary? The imposts are not higher but the quantity of the taxable articles is less.

After having shewn how prejudicial the prohibitory system is to France, M. Simonde proposes a mode of encouragement far less expensive and more effectual. If that system in consequence of the encreased price of the articles of consumption costs each individual 20 francs per annum, it must cost 30 millions of inhabitants 600 millions. But with 10 millions only raised in a manner far less oppressive to those who would contribute, and *lent* annually to assist various manufacturers in forming establishments, the government would put into activity an immense quantity of industry, and excepting in cases where enterprizes were badly planned or mis-managed, it would derive interest from the capitals thus advanced, by affording the highest of all encouragements.

It cannot be denied that these ideas are those of an intelligent mind and perfectly conversant with this subject.

M. Simonde's work evinces information and research, but perhaps the author is not sufficiently scrupulous in the selection of the materials he consults,

It is hazardous for example to refer to Peuchet's *Geographie Commercante*, a work undertaken and swelled out as a mere trading speculation, where the good and the bad, the ancient and modern, the true and the false, are indiscriminately copied without method, and without remark.

The observations which the author gives as his own, particularly on the department of Leman in which he now lives, and on Tuscany, where he resided whilst under the ducal government, are entitled to greater confidence. The manner of levying the direct contributions practised in the latter country bears the stamp of that justice and paternal solicitude which characterized the government

vernment of the grand dukes. These contributions were payable by instalments at periods that best suited the convenience of the contributor. If he paid his contribution before the time, he received a discount; if he was in arrear no rigorous measures were adopted till the end of the year, but he paid interest on the debt for the whole time he was in arrear.

Voyage en Norwege, avec des observations sur l'histoire naturelle et l'economie; Travels in Norway, with observations on natural history and rural economy: translated from the German of John Christian Fabricius. 8vo. 424 p. 5 fr.

The northern kingdoms of Europe have not been so much neglected as is imagined; and the naturalists of Germany have extended their enquiries to these inhospitable regions, and, have found them insufficiently fertile natural productions, however barren in those of more immediate utility to life.—It is something of a paradox that the nations least favoured by the bounties of nature, should have yet produced men most addicted to its study. —Linnæus, the father of botany, was a Swede, and his work grew up in a country little favourable to the enquiries of the naturalists; and there are still many German writers not yet translated, who have explored the more northerly regions of Europe, and collected what would, in no small degree, contribute to diffuse new light upon the vegetable system.

The work of J. C. Fabricius is of this nature; he has explored a country but seldom visited by the traveller, which he has found capable of adding something to the knowledge of the naturalist, and affording to the Lover of Botany a pleasing stock of new ideas.

His narrative is in the form of a journal. He himself confesses that his observations are very imperfect, having been collected in the short space of a month, an interval scarcely sufficient to acquire a perfect knowledge of a town or even a village. But he affirms that he has never departed from truth, the first duty of a traveller. He seldom relates what he has not seen and observed himself, and he has almost always suppressed the frequently contradictory accounts communicated to him by others. 'I was so fortu-'nate,' he says, 'as to discover various objects in natural history, and which 'may at some future period furnish the materials for a Fauna Norvegi-'ensis. Most of my new observations are upon insects; with regard to ve-'getables, I have only mentioned their names. I have left the trouble of 'describing them to the learned and amiable companion of my travels, Pro-'fessor Weber.'

The introduction presents a general survey of Norway, properly so called, which the author traversed. It consists of craggy mountains heaped one upon the other, and vallies of greater or less extent. The height of the mountains and their northern latitude render the climate very severe. The gulfs and bays of the northern provinces never freeze: M. Fabricius attributes this phenomenon to the great agitation of the North Sea incessantly in motion from the violence with which the rivers, rushing between the rocky crags, precipitate themselves into it.

There is not perhaps a country in Europe that can be compared with Norway for the quantity and importance of its productions. Agriculture has not made much progress, the soil being unfavorable to its operations, excepting in a few districts. The country is in consequence afflicted with frequent dearths, and when the fisheries are unproductive the inhabitants of the provinces remote from the sea have no other means of subsistence than a wretched kind of bread made of bark, which is astringent, unwholesome, and shortens the lives of those who use it.

Considerable

Considerable numbers of beasts are bred in the elevated and frozen districts. Gardening is not in a flourishing state. But Nature has bestowed on the Norwegians abundance of wild fruits, preferable perhaps to those which we obtain by cultivation. The forests are the principal source of their riches. Timber in beams or planks is annually exported to the value of several tons of gold. But Norway like every other country begins to complain of the diminution of the forests. M. Fabricius, however, thinks it no real loss to the country. 'It is true,' says he, 'that the forests are diminished; but, on the other hand, it cannot be denied that the quantity of 'arable land and population have encreased. A great number of districts, 'formerly planted with wood, are now entirely devoted to the cultivation of 'grain, and covered with habitations, the residence of the proprietors and 'their families, who derive from them in this state, a far greater profit than 'if they were covered with wood.'

The quantity of fish along the coasts is incalculable, and though for some time a combination of causes difficult to be ascertained, has driven part of them to a great distance from the land; they are yet one of the most important productions of Norway, vast quantities being exported, besides supplying the considerable domestic consumption.

The mines are likewise a great resource to the country. Only one vein of gold and one of silver have yet been discovered, but copper and iron are in great abundance.

Excepting the royal glass-houses, and a few sugar-houses, Norway is almost destitute of manufactures. The country people purchase scarcely any thing that is made in the towns. Some are at too great a distance and others want money. Almost every thing they use they consequently make themselves; it is true that they are not the most skilful artizans, but they are contented with such articles as they can make.

Separated from other nations by inaccessible mountains, the Norwegians are strangers to our fashions and our vices; they still retain the frankness, the hospitality, the bravery, and the temperance of former ages. The nobles are few, but the class of citizens is numerous and wealthy. The peasantry is absolutely free and exempt from personal servitude. Every peasant is a soldier in the interior, and a sailor on the coasts, and it would be impossible to find a single habitation that does not possess several weapons of defense.

The sciences are in a better state than might be expected in a country destitute of the means of making them flourish, without academies, libraries, and almost without even a bookseller's shop.

These particulars are almost the whole of the statistical information given by M. Fabricius relative to Norway, and the manners of its inhabitants. Almost two thirds of the work are occupied with observations upon natural history and rural economy. We shall not enlarge on this part; the original having appeared twenty-five years since, we may reasonably presume that if it contained any details that were new at that time, they are now perfectly well known.

If it be true that

'The proper study of mankind is man'

the following particulars will be read with greater interest and advantage.

'The peasants in the environs of Noeklebye take uncommon interest in 'the political affairs of Europe. As soon as they heard that we had lately 'arrived from Copenhagen, they asked a thousand questions relative to the 'present war. Prussia, Austria, Russia, Turkey, were all subjects of their 'attention; but the dispute between England and her colonies was their most 'favorite topic. They were all violent partisans of England, probably be'cause England purchased the greatest part of their timber and plank, at

'least all their discussions tended to that point. But for our part we had no 'reason to complain of their curiosity in every thing relative to political 'events, for to this cause alone was owing the expedition with which we 'more than once procured horses. When we arrived at a post-town we 'were frequently obliged to wait several hours because the horses that were 'to take us forward were at pasture at some miles distance: but by enter-'ing into conversation on war and politics with a farmer, who would not 'have been induced by the greatest offers, he would lend us his own, at the 'same time expressing the pleasure which our accounts gave him.'

Flora du Nord de la France; Flora of the North of France; by E. Rouvel, Officer of Health at Alost, and corresponding Member of the Society of Brussels. 2 vols. 8vo 10 fr.

THIS Flora is a description of the indigenous plants, and such as are cultivated in the departments of the Lys, the Dyle, the Scheldt, and Deux Nethes, comprising likewise those that grow in the departments contiguous to them. It is the fruit of thirty years labour and research; the plants are arranged according to the Linnean system, and described by genera and species, with the author's observations. The places where they actually grow, are specified, together with their uses in medicine, economy, and the arts.

Lettres elementaires sur la Chimie; Elementary Letters on Chemistry; by Octave Segur, a pupil of the Polytechnic School, from the Lectures by the Professors of that School, Berthollet, Fourcroy, Chaptal, Guyton, &c. with plates. 2 vols. 12mo, 6 fr.

WITHIN the last five and twenty years an important revolution has taken place in chemistry, in two points, apparently different, but which, nevertheless, are reciprocally connected.

Priestley, and other natural philosophers, by an attentive investigation of the aeriform substances that enter into the composition of bodies, have demonstrated the existence of new principles in them; and the introduction of these new principles has rendered it necessary to alter completely the nomenilature of the science. The new theory being the work of chemists infinitely more philosophical than their predecessors in that career, precision, perspicuity, analogy between the objects they intended to express, are the characteristics of the new nomenclature. It must be obvious that it was equally necessary to re-write the elementary works on chemistry, and it is known with what success that has been done by the Lavoisiers, the Fourcroys, the Chaptals, &c. But their scientific productions are suited only to those who devote themselves to the study of chemistry; it was for this class of men that they established the definitions, and them they had principally in view in the developements of the science and verification of its principles by the aid of experience.

This pupil of the Polytechnic School, and of those learned chemists, has undertaken a popular explanation of the science with the assistance of its elements only. He informs us that this undertaking originated in a desire to gratify some of his friends residing at a distance from Paris, and who being unable to leave the country, requested him to transmit to them an analysis of the lectures he had attended at the above school.

Such an analysis is presented in the letters here announced. In the first essays of youthful writers we seldom find such a pleasing simplicity in the classification of the subjects, and the distribution of the matter of so vast a science, such accuracy of definition, such precision and perspicuity of style.

These

These qualities are equally conspicuous in an elementary work on botany, previously published by the same juvenile author.

De la Cristallotechnie ou Essai sur les Phenomenes de la Crystallisation; Crystallotechnia; or Essay on the Phenomena of Crystallisation and the Methods of performing that Operation to obtain complete Crystals, and the Modification of which each form is susceptible; by Nicholas Leblanc. With 3 plates, 8vo. 2 fr. 50 c.

OF the phenomena presented by chemical operations, those of crystallisation may rank among the most interesting and the most diversified.

The new process of M. Leblanc forms an admirable series of crystallisations obtained from different substances existing in the bosom of the earth, the analogy of which, to the crystals produced by nature, must enhance the value of collections of crystals, formed by amateurs. Such is the opinion expressed at different periods, in 1786, 1787, 1788, and 1792, by the former Academy of Sciences on the memoirs presented by M. Leblanc on this subject.

This opinion was confirmed by the class of physical and mathematical Sciences of the National Institute of France, at its meeting, August 18th, 1802. It therefore proposed to the Institute to invite the minister of the interior to supply M. Leblanc with the means necessary for prosecuting his researches on the crystallisations of salts, and to print his work. Hence will result, says the report, several important advantages: 1. Numerous and continually encreasing means of extending and confirming the theory of crystallisation already so satisfactorily established by the labors of Haüy: 2. Complete collections of perfectly pure crystals, from the most simple to the most complicated forms, for Cabinets of natural history and public exhibitions: 3. The possibility of explaining the causes, by the effect of which nature presents such an infinity of forms of the same substance: 4. Lastly, to restore to his favorite pursuits, a learned and worthy man, whom the misfortunes of the revolution had deprived of the ability to support his family.

It does not appear that the wishes of the class of the Institute were complied with, for M. Leblanc informs us that M. Molard afforded him that assistance, without which it would have been impossible for him to resume his operations, and submit their results to the eye of the public.

Nouvelles Experiences Galvaniques, &c. New Galvanic Experiments made on the Muscular Organs andon Animals with red Blood; in which the different Organs are classed according to the Duration of their Galvanic irritability, and it is proved that the Heart preserves that Property longest. By P. G. Nysten, Physician, Member of the Society of Observers of Man 8vo. 2 fr. 50 c.

TO come to the conclusion that we find in the title of the work, M. Nysten observes, that having made his experiments on the muscular organs of several animals killed by decapitation, it would have been highly interesting to have done, with regard to the heart, what Halle performed relative to the other muscular organs, at a time when the Galvanic irritability of the heart was still doubtful, that is, to have examined the influence of different kinds of sudden death on this same irritability. But he adds, that to have undertaken such a task, he must have destroyed animals by repeated discharges of an electric battery, by submersion in mercury, by strangulation, by privation of air in an air pump, by vapor of charcoal, by the action of various gases and different acids. Want of means having prevented him from trying all these different methods, he was obliged to confine himself to subjects that had died by strangulation, by cessation of the functions of the brain and

of

of the heart. To those three principal divisions of sudden deaths he has added that caused by respiration of sulphurated hydrogen gas.

This work, which consists only of a series of experiments, is divided into three parts.

The first part contains his experiment made on the human muscular organs, and some reflections on that experiment.

The second comprehends every thing connected with his experiments on animals with red and warm blood, as the dog and guinea-pig among mammiferæ, and the pigeon among birds.

Lastly, in the third he has collected some experiments on animals with red and cold blood, as the carp among fish, and the frog among reptiles.

Deficiency of means does not appear to have prevented the author from drawing luminous conclusions from his experiments.

Dissertation sur le Vase d'Or trouvé a Rennes le 26 Mars, 1774, &c. Dissertation on the gold Vase found at Rennes, 26th March, 1774, read before the Class of Literature and fine Arts of the National Institute, the 13th, 18th, and 23d Fructidor, year 9. By A. L. Cointereau, author of the *Abridged History of the Cabinet of Medals*, 4to. 64 pp. with two Plates, 3 fr.

THIS vase of perfectly pure gold, and in the highest preservation, was found 1774, in repairing a house belonging to the chapter of Rennes, and was immediately deposited in the Cabinet of Medals of the National Library. Though it is not of very remote antiquity, dating only from the year of Rome 960, (208 of the Christian æra) it furnishes M. Cointereau with the subject of a prolix dissertation, whence it appears that, according to the custom of those times, it was presented to Septimus Severus, upon his departure for England, to chastise the revolted Britons; or, perhaps, upon the new promotion of his sons to the Consular dignity. To arrive at this conclusion, the author has entered into profound researches, and in the course of his dissertation clears up, *en passant*, a multitude of difficulties in important points of history and mythology. His work, from the great erudition it evinces, and the accurate engravings with which it is accompanied, cannot but prove highly interesting to those who devote themselves to this kind of study.

Le Magasin des Dames. The Ladies' Magazine; first Year, with a Portrait of Madame du Boccage, 1 fr. 80 c.

THE idea of this small collection is good: its intention is to present to the public, at the commencement of every year, the smaller pieces, both in verse and prose, written by French females in the course of the preceding year. All those composing the collection here announced justify a favourable opinion of the editor's taste and judgment in selection. Mesdames Pipelet, Joliveau, the late Bourdic Viot, &c. appear to advantage in poetical composition; and Mesdames Genlis, Stael, &c. in prose. But the French muses, are by far not so numerous, nor in general so prolific as the writers of the other sex. But for this perhaps, fortunate dearth of materials the editor has very dexterously made amends by introducing historic eulogies of Mad. de Choiseul, Mad. du Boccage, Mad. Bourdic Viot, and no less interesting accounts of Cornelie de Wasse and Miss Godwin, snatched within the year from literature and the arts which they cultivated. Under the head *Varieties*, is comprehended a collection of anecdotes of interesting facts that occurred during the year, and which are highly honourable to the fair sex. The volume concludes with a notice of all the works published by females in the course of the year 1802. These amount to 52

of

of which 13 are devoted to morality and the sciences, and 33 are novels; but in this number the contributions of Mad. de Genlis to the *Bibliotheque des Romans* are not included.

Spartacus ou la Guerre des Gladiateurs; Spartacus; or the War of the Gladiators; by Meissner. Translated from the German by Viollant. 12mo. 1 fr. 80 c.

GERMAN literature is an abundant mine, but containing much heterogeneous matter. In the immense mass of productions that stock the fairs of Leipsic and Frankfort, fortunately a rich vein is occasionally discovered. Of this character is the work before us. The author has treated of only a single point of Roman history, but with such erudition, soundness of criticism and ability, as will justly obtain it a place among the best historical works.

It must have been an extraordinary spectacle to a nation uniformly victorious, that had subdued Asia, Africa, Gaul, and Spain, to see a native of Thrace shake off the chains of slavery at Rome, depart from that city with a handful of Gladiators, to see him aided by his genius alone, contending at the head of an undisciplined rabble against the most warlike people of the universe, and striking consternation into the capital of the world. Like Hannibal he might have obtained possession of it, and like him he neglected the opportunity.

The imagination is struck with his rapid successes. As a fugitive, he escaped from his persecutors, and when opposed by forces ten times more numerous than his own, by a nocturnal surprise he disabled them from doing him any injury. He vanquished all the troops sent against him, defeated two consular armies by which he was hemmed in, and obliged all the generals to return disgracefully with the loss of their army.

When, about thirty years afterwards, Julius Cæsar took on the same day three hostile camps, this action was admired even by his rivals and his enemies. What would they have said if, like Spartacus, with a mob armed only with pikes, and utter strangers to tactics, he had beaten Lentulus whose army was composed of fresh troops, and enjoyed every advantage of situation, and afterwards defeated Gelius who commanded the best soldiers of Rome? He was however at length beaten by Crassus, and his glory perished with him.

This work will not be read without interest. The style is rapid, always animated, and the subject has never been treated so much at length, and with such perspicuity, as by M. Meisner.

Voyage a la côte de Guinée. Voyage to the Coast of Guinea, or Description of the Coasts of Africa from Cape Tagrin to Cape Lopez Gonsalves-containing Information relative to the Treatment of the Blacks, from authentic Memoirs; with a Map. By P. Labarthe, author of a *Voyage to Senegal.* 8vo. 4 fr.

THIS voyage forms a sequel to the Voyage to Senegal published by the author last year; its object is the same, and that object is equally well fulfilled in this second voyage as in the first. Now that the French, after an almost total stagnation and inactivity of ten years, are again establishing communications with their colonies, and commerce and navigation are resuming their former activity; nothing, certainly, is of greater importance to traders and mariners than a guide on which they may rely to direct the one in commercial operations, and to give the others as accurate an idea as possible, of roads perhaps new to them, or which they have not frequented for such a long period. The author, who has several years held an office in the marine department, and to whose province belongs particularly

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every thing relating to the French establishments in Africa, was certainly more capable than any other of giving such important information to their merchants and mariners. In this particular, the work before us is as complete as could be wished. The author declares that he made a point of consulting the best informed men in that part of colonial administration. He moreover accompanied in the year 1778, M. Denys Bonaventure, a distinguished naval officer, commissioned by government to visit all the French establishments in this part of the world, to take drawings of the coasts, &c. and executed this mission with equal ability and success. Besides, M. Labarthe assures us that in writing this voyage he has profited by all the observations made between 1784 and 1792 by the different officers sent out every year by government for a similar purpose to that of M. Denys Bonaventure; and whose memoirs are still preserved in the office for marine affairs. In short, this work contains a description of 600 leagues of coast, which, with the 300 included in the above-mentioned voyage to the Senegal, comprehend a space of 900 leagues, and it gives besides, a detailed, and in some measure official account of all the European establishments in that long space. The author compares their strength and management; and with regard to those belonging to France, he describes the state of their commerce, the articles of which it is composed, the encrease of which it is susceptible, and generally all the advantages which this commerce should afford to those interested in this kind of enterprises and speculations. Details on the singular manners and customs of the different nations inhabiting this part of the coast of Africa have not been omitted; that object having formed part of the instructions given to M. Denys Bonaventure, as well as to those naval officers that preceded and followed him.

This book appears in every point of view to deserve commendation, and calculated to interest even such readers as consider works of this kind only as objects of moral instruction or curiosity.

GERMAN BOOKS.

Anleitung zur Kentniss der Gewächse, &c. Introduction to the Knowledge of Plants. By K. Sprengel. Part I. & II. 421 and 367 pp. with Plates. 8vo.

THIS publication is in the form of letters, and it is the author's intention to reduce the science of botany to a few short and simple elements, with a view of rendering it more easy, more attractive, and adapted to the most common capacity. Next to the gratitude which we owe to the first discoverers of science, is that which is due to those who have laboured to disentangle it from its intricacies, and smooth our progress in a road, of which the way is already broken. To simplify science, and to reduce it to the level of the meanest understanding, is undoubtedly a benevolent, but frequently a wild attempt; there is considerable danger in thus endeavouring to narrow a system, and comprise it within a few short rules; and we have often had reason to lament the number of superficial readers who have been made by those mutilated abridgements of science, which profess teaching on a concise plan, and in a short time, what cannot be acquired without labour and long attention. The subject of which this author treats has, of late, been a favourite with the writers of our own nation, who have laboured to render this delightful study more generally understood, and to recommend it, in a more particular manner, to the attention of the ladies. These grammars of botany have, in our opinion, been constructed on a wrong plan; the first elements of the science have been given in the form of letters, a method ill adapted to the explanation of a system, which should proceed in a connected and uninterrupted series, a form which cannot be well observed in the epistolary style. This objection applies equally to our own writers as to the present author.

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The first part of this work is devoted to an explanation of the structure of plants, and the distinction of their parts; in the second he treats of system.

The thirty letters, of which the first part is composed, discuss the utility of the study of botany, its influence on the mind and heart, and its object relative to physiology and history; he next passes to what may be called the literature of botany, and the manner of forming collections of plants; the difference between plants, animals, and minerals; the forms of plants, and their differences from climate; their cellular texture as the principle of their organisation; the epidermis, the utility of the filaments; the simple principles of plants and their juices; analysis of the inner bark, the wood and pith; the causes of the motion of the juices of plants; of buds and seed; leaves, their green colour, and their property of purifying the air; evaporation and the temperature of plants; their sleep, the irritability of the leaves; analysis of the flowers and their parts, their smell, colour, and utility; fecundation, generation of bastard plants, and analysis of seed.

The six first letters of the second part contain the nomenclature, and the eighteen others an explanation of the Linnean system.

By the analysis which we have given of the contents of this work the reader will judge of its utility; 18 letters of the second part are devoted to an explanation of the Linnean system; this was certainly too large a portion of the work to be given up to what, in teaching the elements of botany, should have been rapidly passed over:—notwithstanding, it may safely be recommended to the students of botany, but it possesses no merit of sufficient eminence to entitle it to supersede the works of the same nature which our own countrymen have produced.

Handbuch der Naturlehre für Thierärzte. Manual of Natural Philosophy for the Use of Veterinary Practitioners. By P. E. Abildgaard, and E. Viborg; translated from the Danish, by E. Pfaff. 383 pp. 8vo. 1 rxd. 12 gr.

A MANUAL of natural philosophy is a desirable thing, and we have been so frequently condemned to toil through a quarto to get our information upon this subject, that we look with no inconsiderable pleasure upon a pocket volume. This author makes no ostentatious professions; he can give us but a little and, in that little, it was impossible to comprise all that could be said on so fertile a subject. We perceive with much satisfaction that the veterinary art is generally taught in the schools abroad, but it is no very pleasing consideration to find it so much neglected in our own country:—it is strange that we should flag in a science, which, unquestionably, would be more beneficial to us than to any other kingdom in Europe.

The translator says, that this work is not intended to form a complete course of natural philosophy, but only to present a sketch capable of serving for a basis in teaching this science in the veterinary schools. He has enriched his translation with the theory of Galvanism, which other authors passed over in silence. This work is likely to be of great utility to such as study natural philosophy under the direction of an able professor. It is divided into four sections treating of the general properties of bodies, of their division, of their particular properties, and of the system of the earth.

Die Revolutionsgeschichte der Venetianer. History of the Revolution of Venice in 1797. By J. F. Fik. 8vo. 1 rxd. 8 gr.

FEW states of Europe have undergone more variety of fortune than those of Italy; and few in Italy, more than Venice. It is a melancholy consideration that this ancient aristocracy, perhaps the most perfect model of refine-

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ment in policy, should at length be subverted; and after having withstood the many assaults of neighbouring princes, the shock of intestine commotions, and the lapse of time, that it should fall in its latter years, unlamented, and without a struggle. In the perusal of this book, the memory of the politician will be filled with the images of its former glory, when the bulwark of christendom, it repelled the invasions of the Turks, and alone keeping up a connection with the east, enriched the kingdoms of Europe, as yet not emerged from barbarism, with its commerce and manufactures. He will reflect, in the words of its historian, on that æra of its glory, previous to the treaty of Cambray—'when the jewels of imperial crowns were pledged 'for its loans, and the armies of kings paid from its treasuries.'

In the present state of Europe, Italy may be considered as blotted from the map,..or, at least, existing only as an appendage to the French republic. Venice is now under the dominion of the emperor, who receives it as an indemnity for his former possessions in Italy; the government of the doge and senate is still maintained, but their independence is lost.

The present work, however, is merely confined to the revolution of 1797; when Italy was overrun by the French armies, and Venice plundered and subdued with other states.

The history of its fall, therefore, cannot fail to be interesting to every class of readers. It is here related by an eye-witness, who describes all the events, and developes their causes with an impartiality which adds materially to the merit of the work.

Beitrage zur Natur-kentniss der Schwedisch Pommerschen Staats-verfassung, &c. Memoirs illustrative of the Statistics of Swedish Pomerania. By M. Pachelbel. 8vo. 258 pp.

THESE memoirs are intended as a supplement to the Statistical Account of Swedish Pomerania, published in 1786 and 1788, in two volumes, by M. Gadebusch. M. Pachelbel, has revised and added to each paragraph of his predecessor, so that his work contains a valuable collection of materials relative to the Statistics of Pomerania: We shall subjoin a few of the facts it presents.

The best map of Swedish Pomerania is that published in 1794, by Schmettau, with his map of Mecklenburg. The whole number of inhabitants in Pomerania, and the island of Reigen, amounted in 1800 to 11300, not including the military to the number of 2680. Agriculture is the principal branch of industry in this country; it has neither fabrics nor manufactures. On the island of Moenkgut a successful attempt has been made to salt herrings, and the monopoly of salt was abolished in 1791. A new organization has been introduced at the university of Griefswalde; its revenues from 1st May, 1800, to 1st May, 1801, amounted to 35,395 rix dollars. Alterations have been made in the public worship suited to the present progress of the understanding. Since 1799 the king has appointed a procurator-general to superintend all the colleges and tribunals in his majesty's German dominions. The last war of the empire with France cost Pomerania alone, from 1st March, 1793, to the peace of Luneville, the sum of 200,000 Swedish dollars, exclusive of the expense of 5516 incurred by the congress at Rastadt.